The Middlebury Campus

JANUARY 26, 2017 | VOL. 115 NO. 13 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

Toy Talks SGA Presidency

By Will DiGravio
News Editor

The Middlebury Campus
SPECIAL FEATURE

Karina Toy '17 discusses the first half of her term as president of the Student Government Association (SGA). Here, Toy shares what the SGA has accomplished this year and her plans for the remainder of her presidency. This is part one of a two-part interview; the second will run in our first spring issue.

Will DiGravio (WD): One of the central parts of your campaign platform was working with Student Financial Services to help students gain a better understanding of how the financial aid system works. What has the SGA done so far to address this issue and what does the SGA plan to do going forward?

Karina Toy (KT): Working with students, we created a survey that asked the questions that we thought were necessary and important to [understanding] this issue. And then we presented [the survey] to Student Financial Services and the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research. [The survey] came out around Thanksgiving and we're still waiting on the results.

From there, we're planning on working with Student Financial Services [after seeing] what the results say. We don't know what the results say yet so we can't actually say what the next steps will be. I've told [President of Middlebury] Laurie Patton and the Senior Leadership Group about this, so I think it won't just be SGA looking at the results, it will be a much more institutional look at them. And hopefully there will be some positive changes or better understanding between students and financial services.

WD: You ran on a promise to create a fund that would provide grants to students who may not be able to afford to participate in high-cost J-term workshops. The SGA passed a resolution to create such a fund on Nov. 6. Now that we are in J-term, can you talk about that process and what the future of that fund looks like?

KT: The fund passed through the [SGA] Senate very easily. We allocated $2,500 after talking with [SGA Treasurer Kevin Benscheidt] about it, and that seemed like a reasonable start-up amount. I can't remember how many people applied but we were actually able to fund all [applicants]. That was thanks to [Dean of the College] Katy Smith Abbott coming forward and saying that a donor had donated money [that was to be used] specifically to allow students opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise had. [That donation] doubled the amount that we allocated in order to cover the remainder of the J-term workshop fee, so it was around $5,000 we were able to [award in grants]. We approved it for one year but it will be in the SGA budget for next year. We're not going to be able to allocate $5,000 to [the fund], but in order to make it more equitable we're thinking about limiting the scholarship to about $100 which covers roughly the [cost of most] winter term workshops. There are a couple like dog-sledding that [are very expensive], and it didn't seem fair that [some] students got triple the amount of [other] students. As you know, we're really pushing the idea of financial aid provided by SGA in order to make things more fair and more accessible so I think that will be a theme, and the J-term workshop fund ties into that.

WD: Last year, you said you wanted to focus on community building. You sugguested the creation of a Staff Appreciation Day and a workshop for student leaders. What has the SGA done this year to foster a sense of community on campus?

KT: The workshop for student leaders happened. Unfortunately, it had low turnout. We think [this may be] because it was raining and it was in Kirk Alumni. I think forty or so people signed up, but only a quarter of those actually showed up, but those who did apparently had a great time and it was a great experience for them and they met

SEE TOY, PAGE 2

NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL CO-CHAIR ELECTED

TRAVIS SANDERSON

Students elected Travis Wayne Sanderson '19. See page 2 for story.

MONTPELIER WOMEN'S MARCH

ALEX NEWHOUSE

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders addresses the crowd at the Montpelier Women's March.

WOMEN'S MARCH TAKES MONTPELIER

By Hye-Jin Kim
Senior Writer

Holding signs with feminist slogans like "Pussy Grabs Back," and ovaries that screamed "We Will Not Be Silenced!" dozens of Middlebury students descended upon the streets of Montpelier last Saturday, Jan. 20, the day after the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

In solidarity with over 600 Women's Marches held around the world, the "sister" march in Vermont's capital gave students a local alternative to the main event in Washington D.C.

For two hours, students stood among thousands of others in protest of the new administration — from its conservative stance on abortion to President Trump's inflammatory rhetoric towards women and minorities throughout his campaign. The Montpelier State police estimated at least 15,000 people attended the event, making it the largest march in Vermont's history.

Middlebury students at the rally in Montpelier cited lack of transportation, lack of accommodations, the burden of class work and job shift conflicts as reasons preventing them from attending the march in Washington D.C.

"I regret it now but at the time, I guess it felt like, jeez, I'm all the way in Vermont and I have stuff to do for school and it would be too much to give up my whole weekend to go there," said Nolan Ellsworth '17. "But I wanted to do something. I hated the thought of spending this weekend doing my same old normal routine when the world is changing around me."

SEE THOUSANDS, PAGE 3

College Plans to Alter CRA Role

By Elaine Velie
Online Editor

The College has decided to change the Commons Residential Advisor (CRA) position due to changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

"On Jan. 11, we made the decision that we would hire five professional positions [rather than traditional CRAs]. The position is being strengthened and evolved, but not eliminated," said Dean of Students Baishakhi Taylor.

The FLSA determines which employees must receive overtime pay. On Dec. 1 of last year, revisions to this part of the FLSA went into effect mandating that employees who fall into this category must be paid a minimum of $913 per week and have received advanced or specialized education, or must be paid overtime. This change in the FLSA affected the College's CRA positions.

"Our current CRAs work six days a week and are exempt employees. For us to keep them at that level, without making any changes, we would have to pay them either overtime or the new base salary," Taylor said.

Due to the long, varying hours that CRAs work, the College decided against keeping the position and paying for overtime hours.

"Our initial plan was to go into the overtime route, but the CRA's work is so involved, and because they work nights and weekends, the overtime situation under our College's current financial model was not a sustainable or viable plan," Taylor said.

"They live in a residence hall, they live where they work," Doug Adams, associate dean of students for residential and student life, told members of Community Council. "Discerning work and non-work in a place where you live and work is a real challenge."

Instead, the College has opted to create a new CRA position that will require new qualifications and will have a higher salary.

"Usually to have a job that pays at that level, the College requires a master's degree. Also, for an exempt position, the FLSA is saying you need to have some sort of special training or advanced degree. It's a combination of these things that led us to the decision that we need to change our current CRA structure," Taylor said.

Taylor stressed the importance of maintaining the same level of care for students.

"All of our effort has been on making sure our student support doesn't change, and that the quality of care that we provide our students and the essential function that our CRAs play, doesn't change," she said.

"We are still considering whether it will be a live-on or live-in position, but the positions will be housed on campus. We are going to make it very clear that there are going to be weekends, no matter where those positions live, that they will have to hold office hours in the commons, and it is not a nine to five job. Those aspects are not changing."

Taylor expressed hope that the change will provide an opportunity to improve the effect that the CRA has on campus culture.

"We are hoping it is only going to enhance the experience of first years and also integrate all four years worth of experience," she said. "In our current model, we don't have that kind of support for our upperclassman students."

The new CRA position is also more permanent than the previous role.

"The other reason I believe this is going to be a really good opportunity for us is that under the cur-

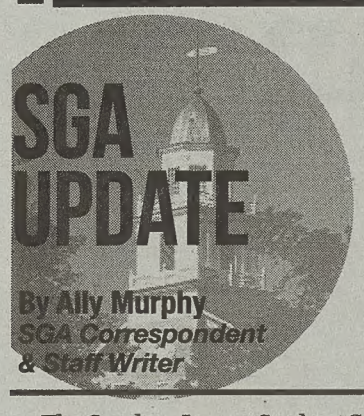
SEE CRA, PAGE 2

INSIDE

MOVING FORWARD WITH CAROL SPOONER
PAGE 4

SGA PASSES FREE TAMPON BILL
PAGE 11

STUDENT PENS PLAY ABOUT MEDIA AND LOVE
PAGE 18



By Ally Murphy
SGA Correspondent & Staff Writer

The Sunday, Jan. 15 Student Government Association (SGA) meeting began with minor amendments to the Student Life Survey. Senior Senator Aliza Cohen '17 brought up sexuality inclusivity, followed by Brainerd Senator Kyle Wright '19.5, who called for increased data collection regarding dining, educational and physical accessibility on campus. President Karina Toy '17 stated that the survey would be made available that week, would run for three weeks, and would include prizes.

Toy then remarked that facilities had improved the installation of free tampon machines in bathrooms on campus. SGA will pay a total of $1,500 for this project.

Katy Smith Abbott, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College, was a special guest at the meeting, and discussed the historical partnership between the SGA and administration with regard to MiddView funding. According to Smith Abbott, the two groups had funded MiddView trips collaboratively until fall 2016, when the College assumed full responsibility. However, due to unexpected financial strains that the College expects will last for another three to five years, the administration is not currently able to fully fund the program.

Smith Abbott discussed various benefits of MiddView, including introducing students to the Vermont community, increasing first year retention rates, and improving GPAs and graduation rates. The administration had requested that the SGA provide $50,000 to help fund the program for up to three years.

Peter Dykeman-Bermingham, interim SGA Finance Comittee Chair, discussed the impact that such funding would have on the SGA's financial sustainability. He noted how humbling it is for the administration to approach the SGA for funding, and discussed the various responses the SGA could take.

Toy opened the SGA's next meeting on Sunday, Jan. 23 by reading a statement from from Dan Detora, Executive Director of Food Service Operations. According to Detora, while the College will implement a swipe system in the spring term followed by a meal plan next fall, students will be able to elect to have a swipe card, and the meal plan will remain unlimited for the rest of this academic year.

Wright then noted that many of his constituents perceived a lack of transparency between the administration and student body regarding the College's financial struggles and changes to the CRA position. After a discussion among the senators about ways to improve student-administration communication, a resolution was ultimately amended to add multiple calls for increased transparency, including town hall meetings and all-campus emails.

Dean of Students Baishakhi Taylor then visited to discuss changes to the CRA position. Due to restrictions from the Fair Labor Standards Act, the job will no longer be filled by recent Middlebury graduates, but by individuals with master's degrees who will not necessarily live in first-year dorms. Taylor revealed that several previous CRAs who have since earned such degrees have already expressed interest in returning.

The senators then discussed the mainly positive reviews they have received from their constituents regarding the MiddView Program, but decided to postpone their resolution on MiddView funding and administration transparency until next week's meeting.

Correction: In the Jan. 19 article, "Swipe System to be Implemented in Dining Halls, Meal Plan Slated for Fall," it was stated that the College's current open meal plan will end in the fall of 2017. In fact, in addition to other meal plan options, students will have the choice to stay on the unlimited plan should they choose.

Toy Discusses SGA Initiatives, Goals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

new people. That was done almost completely by the Institutional Diversity Committee. They also had a post-election panel that we opened up to faculty and staff and that had a very good attendance from all three groups. I think those are two good examples of ways we've been trying to pull students together.

Staff Appreciation Day is going to happen, but we wanted to wait until the end of the year. We have a Dolci meal planned for that and we're going to develop some sort of way to show gratitude during the day. We might actually turn it into a week. And that's targeted towards the people who cook for us, the people who clean, the people who do all that stuff that we're going to have to figure out how to do when we graduate. Also, the SGA co-directors of social affairs are starting a program with [the Student Activities Office] to get more student groups to host parties in McCullough. That's tied into social life, the idea is to get two different groups to host the event together. That could be student orgs, that could be varsity sports, that could be really anybody who wouldn't normally interact. Hopefully, there are going to be five over the [course of the] spring semester. We're also going to have another student leadership retreat in the spring.

WD: You said you wanted to increase the transparency of the SGA. You suggested bringing back "We the MiddKids" and also said you would begin forwarding SGA agendas to other organizations on campus. Can you talk about how the SGA has or is going to increase transparency?

KT: The main thing I've done is make the agenda available as soon as it comes out on the bulletin board. Anyone who walks by can see what we're talking about that day. We also have made sure to reach out to any student org or group or people who would be affected by something we're talking about, before we talk about it. [We have made] sure that they're in the room. Or, if we have a special guest coming in, inviting groups that might be interested in spreading the word. "We the MiddKids" is a very inflexible platform, but I'm planning to hopefully bring it back this J-term. If you've ever been on it, it's really ugly and not intuitive at all, and I thought I could change it when I had the password to log on but you can't. If that doesn't work, we may create some other platform for student petitions, not that students need a platform for student petitions, as we've seen there have been several successful ones this year.

WD: You have mentioned in the past that you want to make McCullough more of a student center. What are you specifically doing to try and foster that sense of community at McCullough?

KT: I've talked to President Patton about this extensively. The issue is that there a lot of other groups who are fighting over McCullough. Faculty and staff also want a space for themselves. There's a space issue on campus where we don't have quite enough space for anybody. We don't have enough offices, we don't have quite enough classrooms, things like that, so it's pretty tight. So there's an ongoing conversation with administration, and I'm advocating to make [McCullough] a student space. I'm not saying that we would stop letting people into The Grille to eat — that's not the idea. It's more to remove meeting rooms and turn them more into lounges or study areas, or stick a TV in them, just make it more friendly and accessible for students. I realize that McCullough is not the most attractive building or the most ideal location, but we have to work with what we have; McCullough is not going to be torn down any time soon. It's made out of marble, brick and stone which means it's extremely expensive to remodel in any small way or tear down. It's going to be here for awhile so we should make the best of it. There's a philosophy that it's not necessary about the space, but what people see happening in it. If we can get people to host parties in here, maybe McCullough will become a cool [space.]

The second part of this interview will appear in the first spring issue of the Campus.

Sanderson Elected Community Council Co-Chair

By John Gosselin
Staff Writer

The College's student body elected Travis Sanderson '19 to serve as the next co-chair of Community Council. Sanderson will serve until the end of the academic year, replacing former Co-Chair David Ollin Pesqueira '17 who resigned at the end of last year.

"There are many students equally or more qualified than me, but I have done my best to direct our community to engage in the most important issues facing us today," Sanderson said.

Sanderson founded go/refuge, a student organization dedicated to supporting refugees in all parts of the Middlebury College community, including staff, faculty and the student body.

"[This group] interacted and engaged with all sectors of our community, not just one group, in the interests of collective justice," he said.

As co-chair, Sanderson plans to focus on five areas: building networks for student organizations, making Community Council more relevant and active in campus life, creating anonymous channels for opinions, promoting faculty diversity and advocating for a living wage for student workers. He also promised to resign from all other positions of responsibility in order to focus on his role as co-chair of Community Council.

"[I intend to] move in the same direction that former Co-Chair Pesqueira moved us towards in terms of providing forums for student organizations to work together," he said.

He also hopes to increase the level of communication between the Council and the College community by writing a weekly column and sending emails that provide information on Council activities.

Sanderson ran against former First Year Senator Charles Rainey '19 in a special election held from Jan. 17 to Jan. 18.

Both candidates presented extensive agendas to the student body. Rainey stressed his record, including his time as a member of the SGA Senate and his current membership on Community Council. Additionally, he touted his many endorsements from leaders of student organizations and other council members.

"I have been able to promote campus wide inclusivity and diversity," Rainey said. "These roles have given me a unique perspective that will be useful as co-chair."

Rainey will continue to serve on Community Council at least until the end of his term this year.

According to SGA Director of Membership Andrew Smith '17, 702 students voted in the election, with 422 voting for Sanderson and 280 voting for Rainey.

"You always figure to see lower turnout in a special election with only one race, so our approximately 30% turnout was in line with expectations," Smith said. "I think the voting went smoothly, and to my knowledge no one had a problem with being able to vote, which is always something I hope for."

The next Community Council meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. in Axinn 104 on Jan. 31.

CRA CHANGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rent model, the CRA position is a one year contract that you can extend for another year, so it's only a two year position," she said. "But for us to do some of the things we believe will help strengthen and build a stronger community, we need continuity. Because these positions are permanent, there is potential to stay four or five years, and to really get something going and not have turnover so quickly."

The changes to the CRA position have sparked discussion within the student body. Brainerd Senator Kyle Wright '19.5, who has spoken with his constituents about the change, has sensed considerable concern.

"Students are upset as well, including those applying to be Res Life this upcoming year," Wright said. "Across the board, students feel as though they're not being included in conversations that they deserve to be included in."

Wright said that students plan to work with the administration to address these concerns.

"As students, we're demanding a platform for participation in these decisions, and the administration has begun to respond openly and empathetically, which gives me a lot of hope," he said. "I created an SGA committee consisting of three senators — Angie McCarthy '19, Manny Duran '19, and me — to enter into conversations with the people who made the decision and we have had an ongoing and productive conversation with Deans Taylor and Adams."

College Admits Early Decision Applicants

By Catherine Pollack
Staff Writer

Last month the College offered admission to 343 students to the Class of 2021 through the Early Decision I process. A total of 673 early applicants applied, marking a 6.5 percent increase over last year.

Representing about 51 percent of the class, those offered admission hail from 19 countries, 35 states and Washington D.C. Of those admitted, 28 percent are students of color.

On Dec. 3, students learned of their admission status by logging onto an online portal. Admitted students are bound to attend due to the nature of the early decision program. 316 of these students will enroll in the fall, while the remaining 27, who were admitted under the February Admissions Program, will begin in Feb. 2018.

In November, 30 students were admitted through the Posse program. The Posse Foundation matches clusters of high school students from urban areas with partnering colleges and universities. Consisting of 10 students each, the three incoming Posse Scholar teams for the Class of 2021 were accepted from the Posse Foundation chapters in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

"Our early decision applicants this year were among the best we've ever seen," Dean of Admissions Greg Buckles said in a news release, adding that "Middlebury's excellent academics and vibrant campus life continue to attract a strong applicant pool."

About 300 more students are expected to apply for consideration in the second Early Decision program, which is also binding and notifies students of their acceptance in early February. The rest of the applications will be considered in the Regular Decision program and will be notified in late March or early April.

Thousands Attend Montpelier March

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Montpelier is a little over an hour's drive from Middlebury, compared to a 10-hour road trip to the nation's capital.

The SGA did not organize campus-wide transportation to Montpelier, though it did help some clubs fund their trips to D.C.

"We mostly deal with funding. Programming [like shuttles to events] isn't our main job," said SGA President Karina Toy '17. MCAB also did not sponsor any shuttles to Montpelier, according to Board President Carolyn Murphy '17.5.

While there were no organized vans to Montpelier, the College's Community Engagement office helped fund three students vans to Washington D.C. through their mini-grant program. Because of high demand, there was a go/womensmarch-vans link for students to sign up and enter a random lottery for one of the 37 seats.

Student leaders of Sunday Night Group and Feminist Action at Middlebury applied for the grants, according to Community Engagement Director Ashley Laux.

"We fund mini-grants across the political spectrum," Laux said.

Meanwhile in Montpelier, all Middlebury students interviewed said they carpooled with friends. Back on campus, those who could not find a ride were simply out of luck.

"If I had a ride, I definitely would've gone," said Mary Baille '18. An international student from the tiny island of Brunei, she has no car on campus.

Those who made it to Montpelier that day joined the march at 1 p.m. as it snaked the half-mile from Montpelier High School to the city's downtown, stopping in front of the gold-domed capitol building. Roads were closed as people filled the steps of the main square, spilling onto snow-covered lawns and into adjacent streets.

On the rally's stage, Muslim Girls Making Change, a group of four Burlington High School students, kicked off the speeches by delivering slam poetry. Spontaneous chants of "Black Lives Matter" erupted through the crowd.

The next speaker was former Gov. Madeleine Kunin (D), Vermont's first and only female governor, who served from 1985 to 1991. She addressed issues of respect, equal pay and healthcare.

Ebony Nyoni, founder and director of Black Lives Matter Vermont, spoke about the disparities in pay, opportunities and healthcare between women of color and white women, noting that many white women voted for Trump.

> ***"I would describe the atmosphere in Montpelier as very happy, a celebration, a festival filled with kindness and love. There were balloons and puppets and drums."***
>
> NOLAN ELLSOWRTH '17

"We must not forget that the needs of women are as diverse as they are, and that our elevation, our freedom is tied up together and wrapped in one pretty bow," Nyoni said.

Next, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) made a surprise appearance. For most students, his speech was the highlight of the day. As Sanders walked to the podium, the crowd became visibly more excited and pushed closer to where he stood on the steps of the state house.

Sanders spoke on the unity needed to fight against the destructive policies of the new administration.

"We're not throwing 20 million people off of health insurance and ending the affordable care act," Sanders said, eliciting wild cheers from the crowd. He ended by noting the success of the rally, saying "I have never seen more people here at the state house than I have seen today"

"I didn't think he'd come back so soon after the inauguration," commented Emily Lewkowicz '19 on Sanders' appearance at the march.

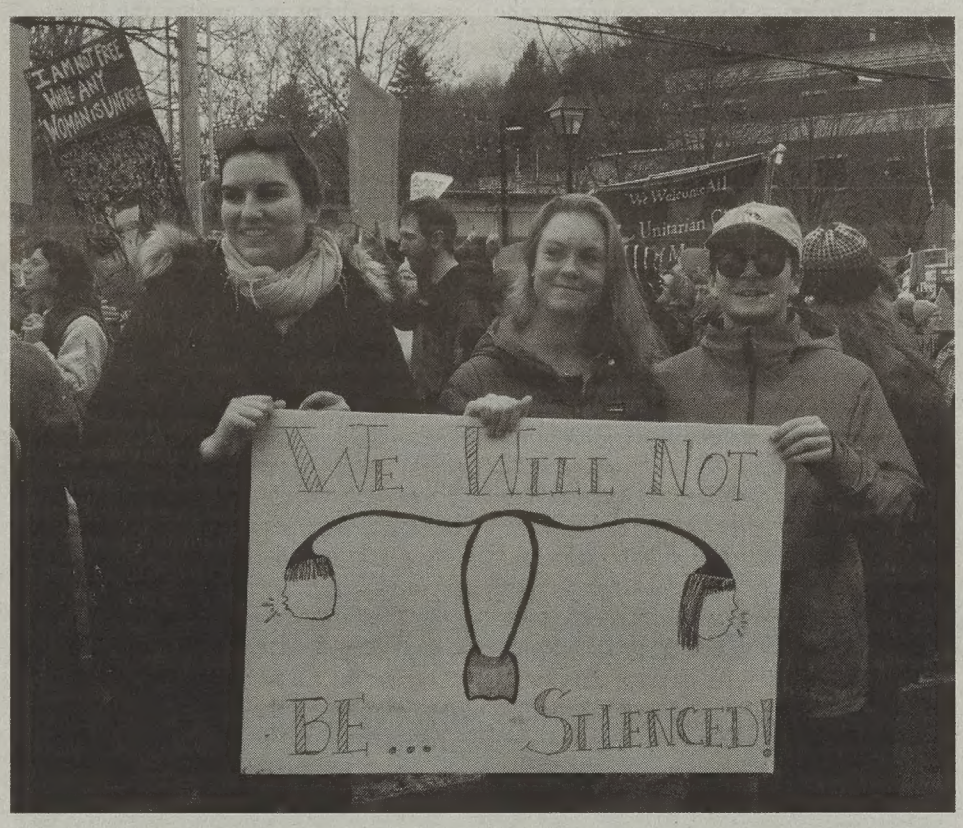
Other speakers included Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, Rep. Kiah Morris (D) of Bennington, representatives of Planned Parenthood Vermont and Migrant Justice.

College students were easily outnumbered by Vermont families. Parents weaved strollers through the crowd, herding toddlers, teens and dogs along. Grandmothers chuckled at witty signs. Vermonters and students alike sported "pussy hats," iconic pink knitted hats with two pointy corners.

"I would describe the atmosphere in Montpelier as very happy, a celebration, a festival filled with kindness and love. There were balloons and puppets and drums," said Ellsworth '17.

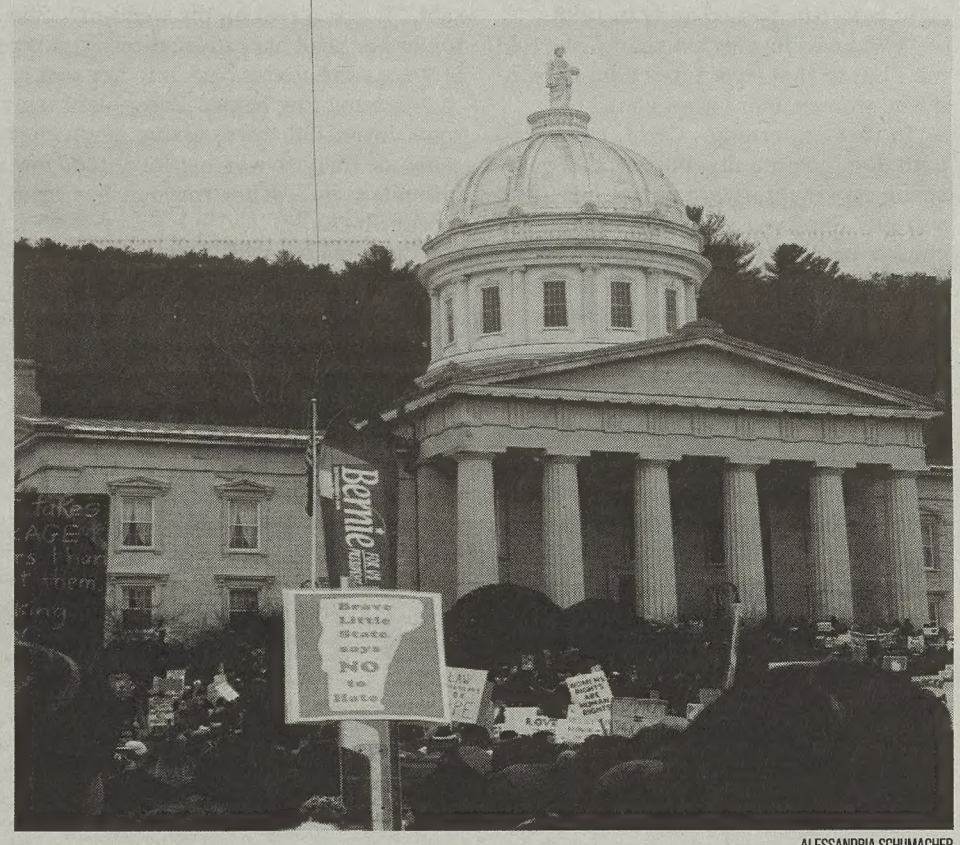
Burlington-based restaurant The Skinny Pancake pitched a tent, flipping free crepes for hungry marchers. One attendee, Simone Villa from Waitsfield, walked around holding a crate of fresh-baked blueberry and chocolate chip muffins. In ten minutes, they were gone.

"Everybody needs a muffin after yesterday [President Trump's inauguration]," he said.



HYE-JIN KIM

Gabi Rosenfeld '17, Josie Trichka '17 and Eric Machado '17 (pictured from left to right) all participated in the Montpelier Women's March this past Saturday.

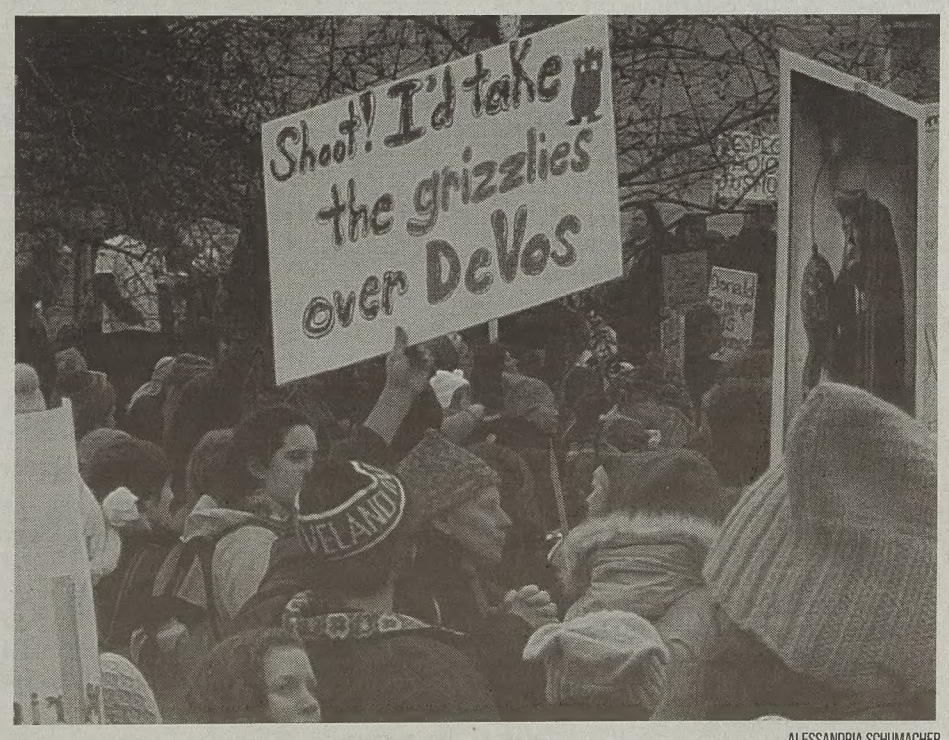


ALESSANDRIA SCHUMACHER

Protesters expressed their dissent in front of the Capitol building in Montpelier on Saturday afternoon.

ALESSANDRIA SCHUMACHER

Young children and adults alike found places for their voices and signs at the march.

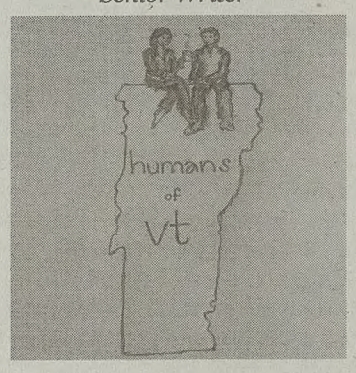


ALESSANDRIA SCHUMACHER

Protesters joined together with a variety of signs and messages in the state capital.

Moving Forward with Carol Spooner

By Wendy Walcoff
Senior Writer



As Carol Spooner and I sit together in her EastView home in Middlebury, Vt., wisps of her soft white hair are lit by the afternoon light and her wrinkles spread when she smiles. At 88, it seems the lines in her face stretch with the stories she has lived and the love she has given.

Others in EastView Retirement Community remark, with fondness, about how outgoing she is and how she can talk forever. Her grin is wide and open-mouthed and she thinks with her eyes closed, nodding and listening. She is a cougar, she told me, married to Reg, a man nine years her junior. Carol laughed in a loud whisper, "I just learned that term the other day!"

Though Carol is not a Vermont native, the Green Mountains are an integral part of her core. She went to Middlebury College, where she met her first husband and where she later returned with him right before he passed away in 1988.

"I was a widow for ten years," she told me, "but in that time I met a lot of wonderful women, and I grew a lot."

In her mourning, Carol connected with her community during the years spent moving forward from her deep sorrow. She even gave a sermon at her church in Weybridge about the lessons she had learned, and how she had been slowly uplifted throughout that time.

"There were tears in the audience," she says, surprised that what she had lived could move others. Vermont holds this pattern of beginnings and endings for Carol. She was a junior at the College when she received a phone call from her mother that her father was dying. "And then later I lost my husband, but I still had my mother," she laughs.

Despite these hardships, Carol has maintained an outlook of vigor and light. She has a keen sense of continually looking forward and of always seeking the good she can give to others. She told me of the service work that she did for low income women in New Jersey, how she volunteered to be the caretaker for a lonely, elderly woman, how she created a scholarship at Middlebury College and how she mentors students from overseas. Through her loss, she gives and in turn she gains.

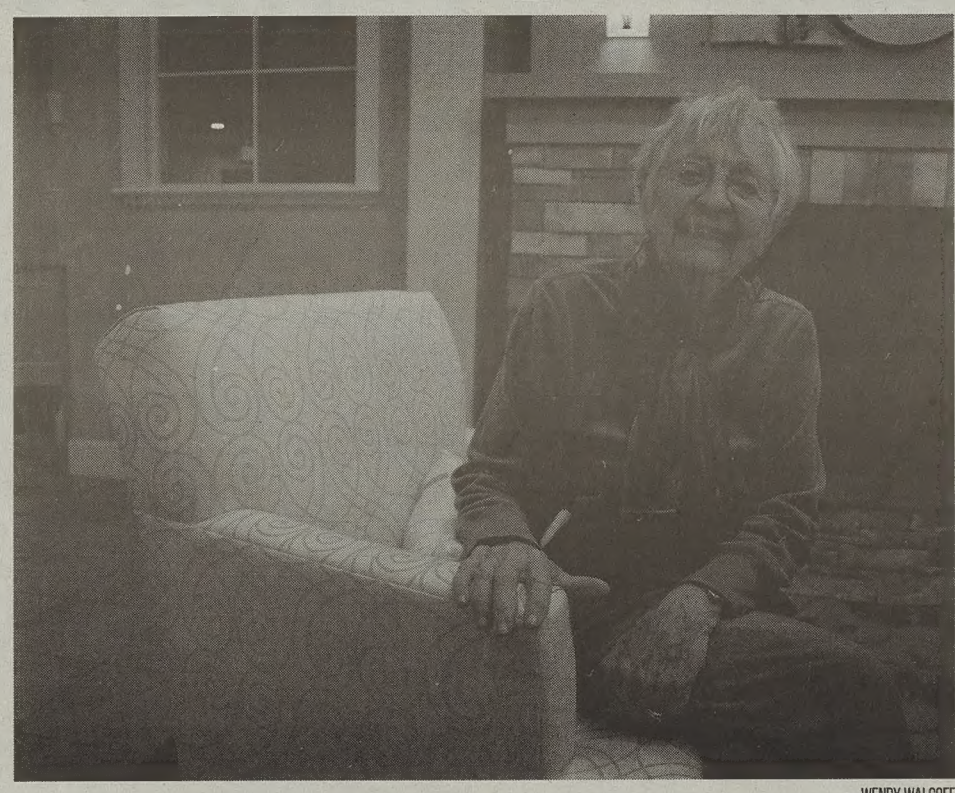
Carol did not plan to get remarried, but not long after she gave her reflective sermon on her first husband's passing, Reg showed up in Weybridge church with his own burden. His wife had left him, saying she could no longer put up with him. Carol asked him out to a picnic, and a camping trip shortly followed.

They took their time getting to know one another, with many a motorcycle-ride and overseas trips sprinkled into their togetherness before deciding to marry. They ultimately wed in Ripton, Vt. in 1998, and they became husband and wife in what is called the "Sacred Circle," within the Spirit in Nature paths that they founded together. These woodland paths are now a landmark in Ripton that symbolize respect and unity for all faiths. Carol wore a flower crown, and she tilted her head toward me as she told me about it, mouth open wide as she said, "It was a real hippie wedding!" She tosses her head back in laughter, winking at Reg as she settles back into her seat.

Marrying Reg helped Carol plant new roots in an old town, giving her a new sense of life. It was his love, too, that ultimately pulled her through her most recent illness.

"I was ready to go," Carol says, recalling her bout with pneumonia. "I was 88 years old and had a wonderful life, but Reggie kept pushing me beside my bed each day. He said, 'No, I don't want you to go.' And I felt that my daughter needed me too...So I'm now fine."

She smiles and shrugs. "It was a life changing experience for me this time. I'm not afraid, but I kind of want to stick around, especially because I am so appreciative of everything. We had to drive over to White River Junction the other day, and just the color of the trees ... wow. I just said, "Thank you, God, for letting me stay a little bit longer."



WENDY WALCOFF

Carol Spooner, 88, sits happily in her EastView Home as she shares her story.

If I close my eyes I can see the flash of colors outside Carol's window, a vibrancy I imagine she sees wherever she goes, whether the leaves are blooming or falling. And, if I squeeze my eyes tighter, there is a flash of faces in my mind, of all those who have shared their stories with me throughout my times writing Humans of Vermont. There are the children with gaps in their teeth and old women with wrinkles in their hands. There are faces with the smiles, tears and scrunched eyebrows of those who were willing to stop in the middle of the street to talk to me, those who sat next to me on a bench and those I listened to in between apple picking or over the countertop at the general store.

Of all the people I have interviewed for Humans of Vermont over the past two and a half years, from what might be a blur of conversations, there are a few that stand out in a sharper light. Sometimes it is the story, but often it is the feeling, or the way the conversation invited me into a story, which then makes it a part of my own. I think we find meaning in how one another finds meaning. There is depth in the way many people feel the need to share, no matter the scope of their story; in turn, I have felt the urge to ask and listen.

It just so happened that one of the most radiant storytellers I have met was on the couch of EastView, as she looked back through her life with me and let me become a part of it. The conversation sits with me still as I look back through my time in Middlebury. I think about the landmarks of the past four years, and how I can learn to look forward. If I take heed from Carol, I will leave laughing, with gratitude in my heart and resilience in my mind. Though I may not be asking questions here anymore, curiosity will follow, and I know that for me, too, the Green Mountains will remain at my core.

Spotlight on Neat Repeats and its Impact

By Marc Arnold

Contributing Writer

Across the bridge, down an alley and inside the basement of a renovated duplex, the flowers that decorate the front counter of Neat Repeats are as tall as dogwoods and the colorful decor that fill the space give off a homely and inviting aura.

Linda Waterman, the owner, laughs as she recounts the various party themes that students over the years have visited her store to shop for.

For over 27 years, Neat Repeats has been the spot for the savvy Middlebury shopper, but what many fail to see is how the store has profoundly shaped the community surrounding it.

Established in 1990, Neat Repeats opened as a non-profit consignment store that carried clothing, accessories, housewares and other miscellaneous items.

Ms. Waterman opened the store with two others and since then the store has been kept running through individual generosity and volunteers, whose gift of self cannot be understated. All the items sold are in excellent condition and are so reasonably priced that one would be hard-pressed to leave the store without merchandise in hand.

"I like shopping there because of the variety of things they sell. I was looking for a jacket and found a lot of those but also found myself getting distracted by the odd trinkets they had in their inventory," Abbie Rosenbaum '19 said.

In addition to the incentive of bargain shopping, Neat Repeats offers a trip down memory lane if nothing else. With a quick browse across the racks, you will find yourself among '90s band t-shirts, acid wash jeans and vintage neon colored jackets.

"Ugly Christmas sweaters are a big sell for us," admits Ms. Waterman, who also mentioned that Halloween through Christmas is a popular season for the store.

The physical smallness and obscurity of the store does not reflect the great impact it has had on Addison County. Since its conception, Neat Repeats has awarded over 2.2 million dollars in grants to individuals and organizations.

"We're kind of like a United Way," Waterman said.

In its 26th year, the store awarded just over $88,000 in grants to programs such as Family Assistance, Middlebury Regional EMS, Elderly Services, Dental Assistance, Educational Opportunities and HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty Effects). The service arose out of a need for a pool of funds to help those who are not in a position to help themselves, Waterman said.

In addition to awarding grants, the store also packages and distributes monthly clothing donations to organizations such as WomenSafe, which works towards the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women and their children.

NEAT REPEATS FACEBOOK PAGE

The direct relationship that Neat Repeats fosters between each donation and the grant recipients is a unique opportunity for Addison County, which prides itself on a sense of community.

When a customer quietly leans across the Neat Repeats counter after purchasing something and says "thank you," Linda and all of the volunteers can hear the sincerity behind the appreciation. "Thank you" at Neat Repeats means more than just "thank you, for this great jacket!" It is also a thank you for the store's efforts on behalf of the community at large.

If you would like to volunteer at Neat Repeats, please call the shop at 802-388-4488.

OPINIONS

Disclaimer: Reader op-eds do not reflect the opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* editorial board.

Socioeconomic Diversity at Middlebury

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of the editorial board of The Middlebury Campus.

Last Wednesday, the *New York Times* released an article revealing that 22.8 percent of Middlebury students come from the top one percent of American earners, whereas only 14.2 percent come from the bottom 60 percent. We at the *Campus* were unsurprised by these statistics, and we find them unacceptable. Having nearly a fourth of our student population come from the top one percent may be financially useful, but it is neither socially sustainable nor desirable. There are many schools with similar or smaller endowments than ours that have higher portions of lower-income students, such as Vassar, Bryn Mawr and Barnard. Thinking through long-term goals, we must commit ourselves to a more robust financial aid program and to other means so that the College can become financially accessible to everyone.

First, we commend the College on our need-blind admissions policy, which makes it so that no applicants will be judged on the basis of their ability to pay for tuition. However, we must not permit this policy to distance ourselves from the responsibility of diversifying our student demographics. Our admissions program is theoretically meritocratic, but many of the traditional metrics of success become proxies for class (e.g. SAT scores, which are highly correlated with income). This policy should be utilized in a way that creates a more socioeconomically vibrant campus and not in a way that further harms middle- and lower-class applicants.

The problem may not be a skewed admissions process, but rather a skewed applicant pool. Middlebury is well-known among upper-class circles but much less so in the general population. Middlebury advertises itself through alumni networks and recruits heavily from elite private schools. To create a more diverse student body, we must seek alternative, more egalitarian channels of advertising ourselves and expanding our presence in new spaces.

This recognition problem presents a related obstacle: many prospective students who know little about Middlebury are dissuaded from applying because they do not see it as financially accessible. However, for many students on aid, attending Middlebury proved to be cheaper than going to their respective state schools. Many of our peer institutions with smaller endowments and less financial aid prove that small liberal arts colleges are able to support much more diverse student bodies than Middlebury's.

"Wealth feels like the norm, yet it has become taboo in day-to-day conversations. We need to counteract this with deliberate, open conversations."

As an old and wealthy institution, we should be using that wealth to provide accessible education. Given that we claim to meet 100 percent of demonstrated need, there is no inherent reason Middlebury should be seen as financially inaccessible. This may mean that part of the problem is how we sell ourselves. We must ensure not only that we are financially accessible, but that prospective students know we are financially accessible. This calls for actively reaching out to people of all backgrounds and letting them know they can come here.

We also need to improve the dialogue surrounding wealth on this campus. Having nearly a quarter of our student body hailing from families in the top one percent — and 76 percent coming from the top quintile of earners — clearly affects social life in a way that can be toxic. Here, wealth feels like the norm, yet it has become taboo in day-to-day conversation. We need to counter this silence with deliberate, open conversations. It is our duty as a newspaper and as a student body to construct conversations on class and on the demographics of our school, just as much as it is our responsibility to continue similar conversations about race. JusTalks helps foster such discussions, but if we want to transform our campus culture, these issues and viewpoints must be engaged with beyond a single day.

While cultural change is essential, there also exist more concrete steps the institution can and should take. We participate in programs like Posse that help make Middlebury accessible and socioeconomically diverse. We also have programs like Discover Middlebury that give students from underprivileged backgrounds the opportunity to experience this place and community. We commend Posse, Discover Middlebury and other programs for helping Middlebury achieve its values of equal access to education. Building off these successes, we must expand our recruitment efforts to make them even more inclusive. Furthermore, we recommend that the College consider including courses that deal with issues of financial literacy. Regardless of what our student body looks like, we should be knowledgeable about the financial reality of our own lives, of our college and of the more general population.

Making Middlebury a more socioeconomically diverse community will neither be simple nor quick. Much of what gives Middlebury its character — like the facilities and the Snow Bowl — are luxuries only an elite institution can afford. Achieving our goal of diversity will force us to critically reexamine how we allocate our money. Moving forward, we must consider whether it is worth spending $200,000 on MiddView Trips, or similar expenses, when that money could instead go to financial aid or subsidize unpaid internships, which would afford less affluent students the ability to take the same opportunities as their more affluent peers. Although the College is wealthy, it does not have unlimited resources. If we want to build and sustain a more socioeconomically diverse student body, we will have to ask ourselves what our priorities are and decide where our limited resources should be spent. Only then can we create a Middlebury that is open to everyone.

The Middlebury Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ellie Reinhardt
MANAGING EDITOR
Christian Jambora
BUSINESS MANAGER
Julien Miller
NEWS EDITORS
Caroline Agsten, Will DiGravio, Nick Garber
OPINIONS EDITORS
Hannah Blackburn, Edward O'Brien
SPORTS EDITORS
Will Case, Emily Bustard, Sebastian Sanchez, Rob Erickson
LOCAL EDITORS
Annie Grayer, Alessandria Schumacher, Rebecca Walker
FEATURES EDITORS
Henry Burnett, Charmaine Lam, Alex Newhouse, Sarah Asch
ARTS AND SCIENCE EDITORS
Toby Aicher, Finne Murphy, Sabine Poux, Yvette Shi
PHOTOS EDITORS
Michael Borenstein, Anahi Naranjo, Michael O'Hara
DESIGN EDITORS
Emma Hatheway, Julia Hatheway, Cordelia Prouvost
CARTOON EDITOR
Nolan Ellsworth
ONLINE EDITORS
Pyone Aye, Jerrica Davy, Elaine Velie
COPY EDITOR
Rachel Iacono
THE CAMPUS VOICE HOSTS
Sara Hodgkins
OFFICE MANAGER
Sarah Koenigsberg

The content written within the Opinions pages may cause emotional distress. Please exercise discretion.

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editors, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign CS5 and is printed by the Press Republican in New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.

A Grassroots Community Council

TO THE COMMUNITY

***Community Co-Chair Travis Sanderson '19** writes about grassroots action.*

Hello.

I am grateful to all those who participated in the election for Co-Chair of Community Council. Special thanks goes to my former opponent, whose respectful and well-fought campaign struck admiration in many of us, and to those student groups who mobilized their memberships. Most of all, I'd like to thank those reading this article today. This is merely the first of many chapters in a column in which the Co-Chair discusses the campus issue of the week. This semester, every student will have easy access to unfiltered opinions from one of its elected officials, if not more.

You elected me on a five-point platform. Each point will be addressed in turn. The first through third will be pursued effective immediately. We will continue the work of the previous Co-Chair in building up networks of student groups, and strengthening the ties between organizations and Community Council. The second promises more relevance in students' daily lives. We will fight in the interests of the student body. Not only that, but transparent reports on what is going on will be delivered more consistently on social media (follow the Facebook page). The third involves anonymous channels for feedback. In each transparent report, there will be a google form that doesn't require names for you to comment your thoughts on the doings of the Community Council.

Points four through five will require time and the energy of all of us, collectively. We will move in the direction of more faculty diversity, and in the direction of greater empowerment for student workers and staff. These will not be easy steps. The only way we will accomplish them will be through grassroots action from you. Sure, we are just students on a tiny campus in the middle of Vermont. But this is our community, our officials, our official channels through which to enact the changes we deem necessary. Grassroots action is the way. Through grassroots action, we rose up and created the Anderson Freeman Center. Through grassroots action, we challenged the racist paradigm of the AAL requirement and reformed it. Through grassroots action, we occupied the front of Old Chapel and committed the Administration to be a sanctuary campus — if not in name, in policy. And through grassroots action, we can create a more inclusive community and enact points four through five of the platform you voted for in the election.

"Community Council will be the body that connects you directly with what is going on. We will be your partners, your government, your council."

Since grassroots change is inevitable, the question is whether student government stands with us or against us. The answer flows in the wind with every new election. But if the SGA is a cooperative body irrevocably tied to the administration in its current form, despite contentious issues like MiddView, then Community Council will be the body that connects you directly with what is going on. We will support the initiatives you create in the interest of bettering the community, and we will empower the voices of students and student groups. I invite other students to e-mail me if there's an issue you're passionate about. We will ensure it is raised for discussion, and then do our best to move it through the channels necessary to make it happen. We will be your partners, your government, your Council.

Thank you for your time.

A Journey From Apathy to Empathy

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Local Editor Alessandria Schumacher '17 *writes about the Women's March.*

No form of injustice — gender-based, racial, climate, etc. — exists in a vacuum and neither should its associated movement. Not only do single-issue movements neglect reality, they are also very easily dominated by the already dominant members (i.e. white women and feminism or rich people and environmentalism).

Furthermore, creating a coalition of causes can be key in uniting and inspiring people to act on behalf of others; it can help foster empathy and further a movement by sparking the will to act in people who usually lack the passion for that cause. As far as "women's issues" are concerned, I am one of those less passionate people. But, at the end of the Women's March in Montpelier, the diversity of causes represented helped to spark the fire within me to want to take action.

"Whether it is climate change denial by right-wring politicians or vaccine conspiracies by hippie parents, nothing irks me more than blatant science denial."

I was never particularly interested in advocating on behalf of women in the U.S. I am a feminist and a woman, but I see many issues as more pressing, as do many women of my generation. I am eternally grateful for the feminist activists who have come before, but I have never felt the need to take up their fight. My indifference toward feminism has sometimes bothered me: shouldn't I care about my fellow women and about a movement working on my behalf? Attending the march got me thinking and reflecting...

It takes a fire from within to be passionate enough about something to act, and to act on behalf of other. It takes empathy with the anger and frustration they feel in order to advocate on their behalf.

Sexism is in the air we breathe: how we talk to girls, rape culture, unequal pay, assumed gender roles, objectification of female bodies, etc. However, I cannot recall a time when I have been personally targeted by gender-based discrimination or violence; I have never been physically aggressed and no one has told me not do something because of my gender. I have more often felt gifted rather than limited by my gender, and health care has always been abundantly available to me. In short, I've lived a massively privileged life. Because of the privileges gained from other aspects of who I am, I have been insulated from many disadvantages associated with being a woman. Therefore, I have always found it hard to consider my gender a particularly important part of who I am, and thus hard to find empathy for other women purely based on our shared identity as women.

Intellectually, I understood the vulnerability and passion of many women excited about the marches, but emotionally, I did not; I just couldn't conjure up a time when I felt as vulnerable based on my gender, as so many women are now vulnerable.

When framed as the Women's March, I thought, "Nah, not interested." When framed as a fight for a progressive political agenda, I decided, "I'm in." But I wasn't convinced right away.

Saturday morning at Montpelier High School, I saw the first sign that spoke to me: "Science > Opinion." You bet it is! Whether it is climate change denial by right-wing politicians or vaccine conspiracies by hippie parents, nothing irks me more than blatant science denial.

Later, by the State House, a sign read, "Shoot! I'd take the grizzlies over DeVos," and I started to feel that flame inside. It brought me back to my high school days of writing letters to my representatives and the city newspaper, speaking at school committee meetings, getting yelled at by parents and participating in a walk out. If you try to mess with public education, I will be there to fight tooth and nail, as I have done before.

"Combining types of injustice into aligned movements is essential first and foremost because notthing is truly 'single issue.' It can drag dispassionate skeptics like myself out of the shadows and into the streets."

Following the speech by Ebony Nyoni, Founder and Director of Black Lives Matter, Vt., the crowd erupted with chants of "Black Lives Matter," something that I found myself chanting with much more gusto than, "My body, my choice." Yes, I'm white and it was a largely white crowd, in one of the whitest states in the nation, but for whatever reason (perhaps the very fact that it was so white) the issue of race struck me with greater force than the issues of women. Centuries of the continued oppression of and violence toward black people perpetrated by whites: now that added fuel to the fire that was motivating me from within.

Thus my drive to care grew throughout the day. The "A livable climate is handy" poster added some big logs to the fire. Posters about healthcare access fanned the flames. By the end, I had a full-blown bonfire within due to the contribution of fuel from the variety of issues at the march on the signs and in the speeches.

Thank you (organizers, activists, people who came with signs) for the multiplicity of causes at the Women's March in Montpelier, first of all for getting me to attend the march and, second, for helping me to feel the same passion as the people around me. I am glad I attended because I do believe that women should make their own reproductive decisions, men should not control women and girls should know they can do anything.

Yet for whatever reason, those beliefs alone were not enough to motivate action. Issues of education, race and climate change were. I was able to channel my passion about certain issues to feel greater empathy with others and, after all, isn't empathy for other people's positions something we all need?

Combining types of injustice into aligned movements is essential first and foremost because nothing is truly "single-issue." In addition, it can drag dispassionate skeptics like myself out of the shadows and into the streets to stand up for what they intellectually know they should; keep up the coalition of causes and more people like myself will engage. Getting more bodies into the streets and making more people care is good for a movement, right?

In the end, I may still pick and choose issues that are of greater or lesser importance based on my personal judgement, but I've developed more empathy and I get what other people are feeling about certain types of injustice, and I hope other apathetic (cynical? Skeptical? dispassionate?) feminists like myself get it, too.

The Trump Era is Not Inevitable

U.S. AND THEM

Jack Turnage '17.5 *writes about resisting Trump.*

The millions and millions of women and men who marched across the United States on Saturday showed what Americans should already have realized: the inauguration of Donald Trump does not have to herald the beginning of a new era. Trump has neither widespread support for his policy agenda, nor is his vision for America assured of success.

Trump takes office with the lowest approval rating of any incoming President since Gallup began measuring that statistic in 1945. Majorities continue to believe that Trump is "too impulsive in making important decisions," has conflicts of interest, has poor Cabinet appointees and should release his tax returns. Support for the Affordable Care Act has jumped since the election; post-election polls on it have found that it has the support of a narrow majority of Americans. For example, 74 percent of Americans say the "country should do whatever it takes to protect the environment," and 57 percent "public support for legal abortion is as high as it has been in two decades of polling." Most Americans disapprove of a border wall, support a legal path to citizenship, particularly for those who came to the U.S. as children, want to encourage highly skilled people to come to the U.S. and want the U.S. to accept refugees. Furthermore, 83 percent of Americans believe the U.S. should act multilaterally to solve global problems; only 9 percent think the U.S. "should withdraw from most efforts to solve international problems." Broad majorities of Americans support the U.S. defending its NATO allies, continuing economic sanctions on Russia and remaining a party to the Iran nuclear deal.

The implication of these numbers should be clear: lots of things can derail this Presidency. Will the voters deprived of their health insurance and benefits not punish Republicans at the ballot-box? Will the economy stay steady for the next four years? Will Americans ignore Trump militarily abandoning key allies to Russia and China? Will the brazen abolition of the past half century's achievements in environmental protections, civil rights and women's rights not continue to meet resistance? Will foreign crises, economic headwinds and the task of managing a large and diverse nation not pose grave challenges for a man who prefers "alternative facts" to learning those necessary for those tasks?

"Democrats should stop lamenting their divisions and unify around showing clearly and forcefully the harm Trump is doing. They should disabuse themselves of the belief taht the Trump agenda is inevitable, and that they gain by helping him implement it."

Many Americans assume that because most Trump supporters voted against their self-interests, there is no chain of events that can tear those voters from Trump, and that with that support Trump can fundamentally alter the nation. This notion holds a certain masochistic attractiveness: history is cyclical, what goes up must come down, and as surely as the American experiment has achieved a tolerable degree of success, so the examples of past empires signal its demise.

Isaiah Berlin showed how dangerous and wrong this view of history is in his essay "Historical Inevitability." This belief simply would "make us accept whatever happens as irresistible and foolhardy to oppose." Berlin explains: "Those who incline to this kind of impersonal interpretation of historical change [believe] that everything is caused to occur as it does by the machinery of history itself—by the impersonal forces of class, race, culture, [or] the Spirit of the Age. Given this organization of our lives, which we did not create, and cannot alter, it, and it alone, is ultimately responsible for everything... This belief is profoundly anti-empirical. [It] commits oneself to the view that the notion of individual responsibility is... an illusion."

Trump is historically unpopular, many of his policies have little popular support, and as shown on Saturday by the largest single-day protests in U.S. history, he faces sweeping resistance to whatever he tries to do. My mother, who protests infrequently, marched on Saturday. "It felt like a majority," she said. "It felt like a majority waking up to oppose him."

Democrats should stop lamenting their divisions and unify around showing clearly and forcefully the harm Trump is doing. They should disabuse themselves of the belief that Trump's agenda is inevitable, and that they can gain by helping him implement it. Above all, Democrats should emphasize the consequences of what Trump tries to do in the next year. The stakes of the next year are the same those Winston Churchill described in 1938: "How heavily do the destinies of this generation hang upon the government and people of the United States! From many lands in Europe and Asia eyes are turned towards this large, strong... community, which lies doubly shielded by its oceans, and yet is responsive to the surge of world causes. Will the United States throw their weight into the scales of peace and law and freedom while time remains, or will they remain spectators until the disaster has occurred; and then, with infinite cost and labor, build up what need not have been cast down?"

Embracing Critiques of the Women's March

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Opinions Editor Hannah Blackburn '17 *analyzes critques of the Women's March on Washington.*

The Women's March on Washington and its sister marches have been heavily criticized by conservatives and liberals alike. Critiques from both sides have argued that the marches were purely symbolic or feel-good and would not have real impact. Liberals have additionally critiqued the marches as being exclusive; critics on the left have said the marches represented a "white" feminism, as opposed to a more intersectional feminism that accounts for women's overlapping identities.

I would like to unpack these critiques, countering some and suggesting actionable solutions to others. I will be drawing primarily from my personal experience at the Women's March in Washington, D.C. in this counter-critique.

First, let me address the argument that the marches were merely symbolic. To start with, I would not classify anything that had a total turnout of at least 3 million people nationally "symbolic." This was the largest protest in our nation's history. It was powerful to see so many people in one place and to know that we all shared a desire to see women's rights upheld as human rights. I felt a deep sense of connection and sisterhood with the other women at the march.

The March organizers have essentially created a giant nationwide (not to mention worldwide) network of women. These women, who have already demonstrated that they are willing to physically show up for the issues they care about, will now have access to activist resources through the March network. By creating a wide community around the shared march experience, the Women's March network will also galvanize women to join future actions.

For example, students at Middlebury have already begun to complete the March's recently released list of ten action items for President Donald Trump's first 100 days. The "Middlebury's First 100 Days" Facebook group, which already has 348 members, was created by myself and other students on our way back from the Washington, D.C. march. The page is a space for students to build on the energy and momentum that began at the marches by organizing group events and sharing activist resources. For example, at the "Postcards and Pancakes" event hosted Wednesday morning, a group gathered to write to our representatives about the issues we care about and that we believe President Trump will attack (or already has attacked).

Second, I want to address the charge that the Women's March represented only "white" feminism. Was the Women's March exclusive? Absolutely. Does that mean that it spoke only for white feminism? No.

Let me break down the term white feminism for those who are unfamiliar with it. Drawing on definitions from the Tumblr blog "Intersectional Feminism 101," I would describe white feminism in contrast to intersectional feminism. Whereas intersectional feminism acknowledges that women's multiple identities — for example, as a Latina trans woman or Muslim immigrant woman — all factor into how women experience the world, white feminism is ignorant of the ways various oppressions overlap and amplify each other.

At the national level, the Women's March did a stellar job of addressing issues faced by Black women, Latina women, Muslim women, and immigrant women (again, in my opinion, which has been formed from reading their online Unity Platform and attending the D.C. march). Early on, when the March's original organizers — three white women — were confronted with charges of whitewashing, they brought in experienced women of color activists to lead the March.

Tamika Mallory, one of the National Co-Chairs, spoke at the D.C. march about her experiences as a Black woman and spoke frankly about the fact that Black women have long lived with the kind of fear that a Trump presidency evoked for the first time for many white women. Speaking to a crowd of women who were majority white, she called on white women to show up for their Black sisters. To call the marches "white" or say they represented only white feminism is to erase the voices of the many women of color who did speak and did show up to march.

In my March experience, we chanted "Black lives matter" along with "We need a leader, not a creepy tweeter." I would like to acknowledge, however, that having an intersectional national platform or speakers with diverse experiences and backgrounds does not mean that individual women of color who attended the march did not feel excluded. Historically, white women have benefitted from Black activism, while white women have not returned the favor and supported Black women. Moving forward, our actions must better reflect our values of inclusivity and sisterhood across race, ethnicity, religion, nationality and immigration status. One photograph from the marches that often accompanied racial critiques of the marches had a good point – when will all us nice white ladies show up to Black Lives Matter protests? Now is the time. (Not that it wasn't before.)

The criticism of the March that troubled me the most was the allegation that the March excluded trans women. It troubled me because I think there is a lot of truth to these allegations. The official platform of the Women's March specifically states that trans women's freedom is essential to the freedom of all women. However, much of the symbolism used in the March served to exclude trans women and minimize the importance of their experiences.

"To call the marches 'white' or say they represented only white feminism is to erase the voices of the many women of color who did speak and did show up to march."

The most evident example of this was the ubiquitous pussy hats. The Pussyhat Project was designed to reclaim the word "pussy," in response to President Trump's taped comment about grabbing women by the pussy. While the project's website does acknowledge trans women — "Women, whether transgender or cisgender, are mistreated in this society" — it fails to thoughtfully engage with how trans women could be excluded by symbolism that references specific genitalia. If I think about the pussy hat as an expression of my personal experience as a woman with a vagina, then it does not seem I am excluding anyone. I am merely representing my own truth. However, amidst masses of these hats, it is easy to see how trans women would (and did) feel excluded.

It only takes another moment of critical thought to avoid exclusionary symbolism. I don't believe all signs that referenced pussies were exclusionary. For example, a sign reading "Not a vessel for your pleasure" and decorated with a drawing of labia (as one Middlebury student sported during the march) explicitly references certain sex organs but is a statement about that individual's bodily freedom and her autonomy over her specific genitalia. On the other hand, the "No uterus, no opinion" sign I've seen circulating online strongly implies that women have only one kind of anatomy, which excludes trans women.

Make no mistake, the Women's March was incredible. It was powerful. Women are powerful. And we will be more powerful as we move forward and take action to ensure that all women's rights are respected as human rights.

Moving forward, we need to continue critically examining our own activism. The previous chapters of the women's movement failed to be inclusive and were weaker for it. The strength of the marchers and the strength of the women's movement going forward will come from the sheer number of women from all walks of life who care deeply about their rights and who are politically activated for and by each other.

We will be more powerful when we are actively anti-racism, anti-sexism and anti-xenophobia in our actions. What does that look like for a student at Middlebury? Here at Middlebury, the GSFS department will be looking to answer just that in the coming years. For now, I will join Middbeat editor Lizzy Weiss, who recently published an article entitled "The Women's March and Exclusive Feminism: An Invitation for Submissions" in calling for other students to share their views in this paper, on Middbeat or through any platform about how we can actively support ALL our sisters as we write the next chapter in the women's movement.

DeVos Doesn't Know My Public School

READER OP-ED

Hye-Jin Kim '17 *writes in about Trump's nominee for Secretary of Education.*

Poised to upend the status quo, our next education secretary is likely to be Betsy DeVos. She has pumped millions of her own fortune into supporting voucher programs, using taxpayer dollars for private tuition. She is charmed by charter schools. Though eager to fork it over when prep schools come knocking, she slams the door when the outstretched hand belongs to a publicly-funded school.

As someone grateful for my free K-12 education, Betsy DeVos scares me more than any one of the 17 white men in President Trump's cabinet so far. I graduated from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, a highly-ranked but overcrowded public high school in suburban New Jersey. Many of my classmates were Asian immigrants like myself.

Prestigious private schools, including The Lawrenceville School, Princeton Day School and Peddie, were a 15-minute drive from my home. But like many immigrants, my parents couldn't afford the six-figure price tag to send two kids there every year. Nor could they navigate the competitive admissions process with their broken English and full-time jobs.

If my family had been offered a voucher under DeVos' grand scheme, we likely would have taken it. My classes would have been smaller. I would have gotten more one-on-one attention from my teachers. The counselor might not have asked me to outline my own college recommendation. There would have been soap in the bathroom dispensers. Maybe even full-size lockers.

But I might not have learned to focus in crowded classrooms, unafraid to confidently shout out a wrong answer. I wouldn't have signed a petition to fix public health guidelines, after learning the defrosted pizza on my Styrofoam tray counted as a vegetable serving (because under a thick layer of cheese lay two tablespoons of tomato sauce). I couldn't have walked home from school on days both my parents worked.

"As Asian students became the overwhelming majority, a dozen or so of my classmates transferred to prep school. All but one were white."

I remember my local school district struggled to maintain its diverse reputation. As Asian students became the overwhelming majority, a dozen or so of my classmates transferred to prep school. All but one were white.

DeVos' policies to cut education funding would only expedite the wealthy, white flight from public schools — not just in my town but in districts across the country. The result: a segregated education system that voucher programs won't likely fix.

In San Francisco, whites make up 29 percent of the school-age population but just 12 percent of students in the city's public schools. In the South, a 2016 report by the Southern Education Foundation found that private schools are re-segregating classrooms into rich and white or poor and black. Furthermore, it reported that vouchers have done little to diversify those private schools.

Voucher programs can also hinder student progress. Recent studies on the programs in Louisiana and Indiana found that reading and math scores declined after voucher recipients transferred to private schools. Yet, these private school transfers had an inexplicable advantage over their public school peers. When it came to a college degree, the transfers were more likely to attend and finish a four-year school.

Even here at Middlebury, a college with need-blind admissions and a generous financial aid budget, prep school diplomas are the norm. The College's website estimates 48 percent of students graduated from private school. Though the split is near fifty-fifty, it's nowhere close to the national statistic. The National Center for Education Studies reported that just 10 percent of school-age children went to private school in 2014. That means Middlebury recruited nearly half its incoming class from a one-tenth sliver of all American students. Furthermore, the New York Times reported that the median household income of Middlebury students is $244,000; nearly a quarter of our student body belongs to the wealthiest one percent of all American families.

Playing the numbers game, I'm lucky to be here. But what will be the odds that my peers — the three million other 18-year-olds who graduate each year without the privilege of private schooling — attend an elite college like ours after DeVos cuts funding for public schools? After she implements voucher programs in their place?

The rise of populism in this year's election revealed serious discontent from hopeful college graduates and hardened blue-collar workers alike. Yet, a quality and free education gives every American a shot at the "American Dream," no matter their party, race, income or immigrant status. In conservative speak, education spending is the rising tide that lifts all boats. If Trump's administration champions merit, hard work and grit among our country's founding values, our education secretary must invest in public schools, not defund them.

The Secret Life of a Feb

READER OP-ED

***Eli Susman '18.5** about the Feb program.*

Three years ago, Zach Drennen published a piece in The Campus titled "End the Feb Program." While I full-heartedly disagree with his main idea (being a Feb ranks as one of the most formative experiences of my life so far), I still feel his pain. While first-years have a hall of peers, an FYC and a Commons system for support, new Febs are placed wherever space is available. "Whatever integration they get into the Commons system feels like an afterthought at best," Drennen wrote. Although the college website promises that February admits are guaranteed "full admission to the College community," Febs have not been given the same access to the Commons, a multi-million dollar program.

I'm relieved that after nearly 50 years, the administration has formed a new committee to discuss improvements to the Feb program. The move comes partly in response to a recent survey, in which 90 percent of Febs expressed dissatisfaction with integration efforts. According to the survey, two-thirds of last year's first-year Febs lived in non-first year housing; a majority of last year's first-year Febs did not the find their FebYC, who has traditionally lived in a separate building, beneficial.

"Two-thirds of last year's first-year Febs lived in non-first year housing; a majority of last year's first-year Febs did not find their FebYC, who has traditionally lived in a separate building, beneficial."

Additionally, this year's Feb orientation averages nine hours between evening and morning events, including an eight-hour interval the night before the inaugural meeting of their first year seminar. That's less than the film industry, which requires by law that actors have a 12-hour interval between the time they exit and enter the set. When I worked as a field guide in wilderness therapy, it was against the law to offer less than an eight hour window of sleep. A nine-hour window does not include the time it takes to shower, get dressed and call your family.

Middlebury policy states that "causing excessive exercise, sleep deprivation or excessive fatigue" is considered hazing. Having gone through Feb orientation as a new student, a Feb leader and now a FebYC, I found the lack of sleep and the number of events I was required to attend within a short period of time exhausting.

Of course, this is unintentional. The academic calendar is so full that orientation has to be condensed. Still, since Feb orientation is one of my favorite weeks at Middlebury, I hope we can find a way to start it earlier so there can still be all the fun events people loved, with the opportunity to be more present for them as they happen.

I shared these thoughts with the administration, and they did a great job making the time to meet with me and hear my ideas. By forming a committee to investigate systematic improvements, the college is showing that it values students and does not take these issues lightly. The administration has also started to be more deliberate about how they organize the program; in tandem with the Febulous co-chairs, orientation's schedule has been gently paired down in recent years. They have invited the FebYCs to join the Feb Leader orientation training and are organizing Feb orientation groups by Commons for the first time ever.

"The system is still not fully designed for [Febs], and certainly not yet a 'program in its own right' as the website advertises in its brochure."

Unfortunately for the Feb program, other aspects are harder to change. The calendar committee locks in the academic schedule five years out, and four Commons still have the FebYC living in separate buildings from many of their Febs. Out of wanting my febs to have the best experience possible, I gave up my double with a private bathroom in Le Chateau and a thousand dollar CA position to move to a Coffrin single, so I could live in the same building as my Febs. It's telling that the CA position, a job done primarily over email, is required to live in their set of buildings to assist their residents, but the FebYC position, while newer, is not.

Future Febs may have it easier, but right now, as our senator Bernie Sanders might say, it's not good enough. Febs come to Middlebury at a significant disadvantage. The systems in place privilege Regs in terms of Commons accessibility, language tracks, representation in the SGA senate (which sounds more like a house of representatives) and a host of other issues. The system is still not fully designed for them, and certainly not yet a "program in its own right" as the website advertises in its brochure.

Hopefully, it will be soon. But in the meantime, as preachy as it sounds, when you shake hands and look an incoming Feb in the eye, please recognize that they are still at a disadvantage. Do everything you can to make them feel wanted and included in your communities. It's a new culture here, and they have to learn everything.

A Culture of Binge Drinking Has Consequences

MIDDLIFE CRISIS

***Abbie Rosenbaum '19** writes in about social life at Middlebury.*

Many students realize their drinking habits in college would be seen as alcoholism at any other point in their lives. Take the four years of your college social life and transplant them into your forties: does this seem right? No. That's because this behavior is expected in college and not afterwards. The problem lies with the sheer amount we drink over time, how high we build our tolerances and the lack of support post-graduation. This can turn into a larger, silent issue that's bigger than Middlebury.

It's strange being encouraged to drink so much for four years every weekend and then being expected to quickly cut back afterwards. This drinking mantra is hammered into our heads: "Drink! When are we drinking? Where is the alcohol? Drink!" It's no wonder drinking becomes a constant of most college experiences, other than classes, of course.

Many of us don't know that binge drinking is considered five drinks for men and four for women over two hours (Addiction Center), even though we are told this before school starts during orientation. There is a difference between sipping one or two vodka cranberries throughout the night and taking five shots of gin in fifteen minutes, but the latter seems more common, at least in my circle. But these habits can embed themselves in a person's life far after they are socially acceptable.

A survey by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) found that more than 40% of college students reported binge drinking at least once over the past two weeks. Specific to Middlebury, this tends to escalate during Winter Term, a semester where students have more free time on their hands. A lot of students drink because they feel it's the best way to fit in and have fun. Alcohol-centric events are also some of the main ways people bond even though underneath it all they are more destructive than, say, holding group painting sessions.

Binge drinking after college is seen as embarrassing and uncool. A friend of mine discussed her struggle with me about cutting back in a graduate school program where most of her fellow students are older than her. In her first semester she found herself too drunk at intimate gatherings where everyone else was sober. My friend leaned back onto her old college habits, but these old routines only ended in embarrassment and drunk texts. After so many associations over time between social gatherings and alcohol, these two elements seem to be linked in the young adult mind.

The Ohio State University Research News website reported a survey taken by two affiliates with the university, Ada Demb and Corbin Campbell, who found that around 40% of college students are deemed "high risk drinkers," i.e. students whose use of alcohol may have impacted their social development at school. Of these people, 80% grow out of binge drinking behavior by the end of college, but 20% become "adult persistent" drinkers, binge drinking well into adulthood.

What happens to these "adult persistent" drinkers? Are they expected to move on from this college behavior, or are they sent off to rehab or counseling and deemed immature? For now, it seems this issue is a quiet one, rarely talked about but ideologically deemed a social taboo.

I believe that the student health services on campus should create groups, events or hire speakers for seniors and recent graduates that address this concern about the transition from life inside the Middlebury bubble to the "real world."

There are a few instances where drinking is normalized for upperclassmen but not explicitly addressed, such as the senior Etiquette Dinner and 200/100 days parties. Still, the Etiquette Dinner costs 5-dollars per ticket, is not mandatory and is held during Winter Term when most seniors aren't on campus anyway. At the 200 and 100 days parties, alcohol is deliberately served to students and is branded as a suddenly acceptable social element. Students pregame and then cash in three college-approved "drink tickets." I have not heard of other alumni events or mandatory training days that the college does to ensure a safe transition.

The only thing that comes close is freshman orientation, where students discuss the college drinking culture through slide shows and a mandatory online course. Fast-forward four years and just when the unhealthy use of alcohol has reached its peak and is legal, no one talks about it.

This issue is not only related to Middlebury; it seeps through nearly all collegiate institutions. Some might question the college's responsibility to educate its older students about post-grad drinking because that's not theoretically why people go to college. At Middlebury, drinking happens almost exclusively on campus. I believe Middlebury is responsible for what its students participate in when on campus. Post-grad binge drinking should be better addressed because this is (mostly) everyone's story.

Now Seeking: Opinions Editor

If interested, email campus@middlebury.edu with an op-ed style writing sample.

College Hosts Carbon Neutrality Forum

By Sarah Holmes
Contributing Writer

Middlebury College announced that it had reached carbon neutrality on Dec. 6 after a 15-year endeavor that began in 1999. The announcement in December, however, raised a number of questions from students and community members about what carbon neutrality means and how the College reached it.

The Student Government Association, the Environmental Council and the Office of Sustainability Integration held a forum to answer these questions on Thursday, Jan. 19. The goal of the forum was "to address some of the concerns about carbon neutrality to, first of all, dispel some of the myths but also to critically engage some of the concerns that are legitimate," said Michael Shrader '18, director of Environmental Affairs for the SGA.

Elisa Gan '20, committee member of the Environmental Affairs Committee, said the forum detailed the history of the carbon neutrality project, from 1999 up until today, and specifically focused on "what we should do onward because we have achieved this goal, which is a pretty big deal...for defining who we are [as] a school. It's a good gateway for both sides to communicate, and maybe projecting a vision."

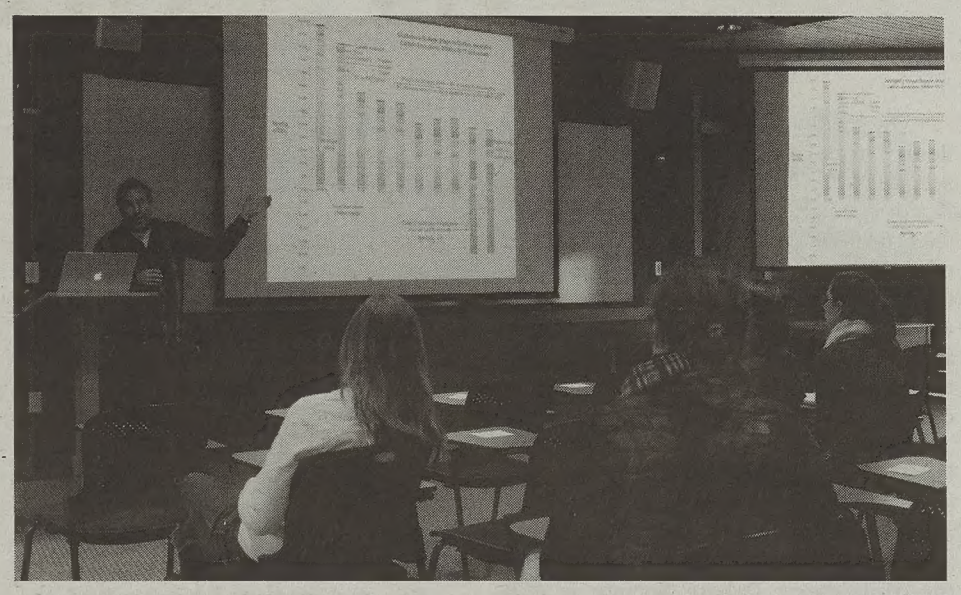
> ***"We have achieved this goal, which is a pretty big deal...for defining who we are [as] a school. It's a good gateway for both sides to communicate, and maybe projecting a vision."***
>
> **ELISA GAN '20**
> **SGA ENVIRONTMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The College set the goal of total carbon neutrality in response to student activism on campus in the 1990s. The College takes into account more components of our campus – upstream (where Middlebury's resources come from), corporate (travel, heating, landfill waste, activities on campus, etc.), and downstream (products that are discarded) – than most institutions in its assessment of carbon emissions.

The College's carbon footprint accounts for all the activities on three Vermont properties: Middlebury College, the Middlebury Snow Bowl, and the Bread Loaf campus. Emissions included in the carbon footprint calculations include College transportation, food on campus, the heating and cooling of buildings and, contrary to some popular understanding, the new Townhouses and Ridgeline Suites construction. In addition to lowering the total emissions footprint made by Middlebury College, the College gained carbon emission credits for the recent conservation of forest land at the Bread Loaf campus.

Those 'carbon credits' reduced the College's overall carbon footprint in "a move that we made to obtain neutrality," Shrader said. "However some people say we should have went a little further in efficiency and investing in other areas," he added.

As part of its sustainability efforts, the College had been working on the creation of a sustainable biomethane and manure digester project to increase reliance on renewable energy and decrease waste. Since the project moved more slowly than anticipated, the College made the decision to incorporate the Bread Loaf forest in Middlebury's carbon footprint last year. As soon as the College gains funding to finish this biomethane project, our carbon footprint including the Bread Loaf forest will be a net negative.



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

The college hosted a forum to educate students on the myths and facts surrounding the announcement that the college had reached carbon neutrality.

Jack Byrne, director of Sustainability Integration at the Sustainability Office, said that while the College's woodchip-burning system is not the most perfect or efficient system, it does help make the school less dependent on fossil fuels. The woodchip system works in part because of the abundance of woodchips available in the area, as the trees are growing faster than they are being taken down for our use. The College recognizes that the biomass system would not work nationally or globally, as the demand for woodchips would be too taxing for the environment, but on a local scale, it is a sustainable contribution to reduce carbon emissions.

For now, however, Middlebury has made major strides towards being a more sustainable, eco-friendly campus. Middlebury's six percent oil use has gone down dramatically, while it simultaneously has switched over to natural gas — a more efficient fuel source — for its remaining fuel needs.

Byrne said that while the College can't eliminate all of its fuel needs such as transportation, it can make "smaller incremental changes" and "nibble away, cut out 10 or 15% [of emissions] by being good stewards."

Additionally, the forum focused on the positive effect our energy and emissions system has on the local economy. Many of the College's decisions take into account not only the impact we have on the environment but also on the local economy. The woodchips come from local loggers; the natural gas and the pipeline that brings it down into Vermont also provides natural gas for low-income families in the area; and the biomass system helps the college financially.

Both Byrne and student leaders emphasized the need for increased student input moving forward. The goal of this ongoing conversation is to create an understanding between students and faculty and to create the kind of campus where student values are upheld in school-wide decisions. The forum encouraged students to reach out to any campus sustainability leaders with questions, concerns or recommendations regarding Middlebury's carbon neutrality and sustainability plans.

Media and Minorities in the West: Students Gather to Discuss Representation

By Henry Burnett
Features Editor

Students, faculty, staff and community members gathered at the Robert A. Jones '59 House (RAJ) on Jan. 19 and 20 for the fourth-annual student-run global affairs conference, this year titled "Media and Minorities in the West: Revealing Trends and Biases." Multiple discussion panels were held over the two-day event, organized by Hasher Nisar '16.5 and Program and Outreach Coordinator for the RAJ Aviva Shwayder '16. It explored such topics as representation of Muslims in the UK media and how local newspaper editors cultivate diverse views in a largely white state.

> ***"Everyone was very engaged and the inter-disciplinary nature of the conference shone through. One of my favorite aspects of the conference was the dialogue between the scholars, local Vermont journalists and student editors."***
>
> **AVIVA SHWAYDER '16**
> **PROGRAM AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR, RAJ**

The event was sponsored by Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs, Middlebury College Activities Board and the College's Muslim Student Association. Shwayder described the event as a success that brought together different perspectives for two fruitful days of discussion.

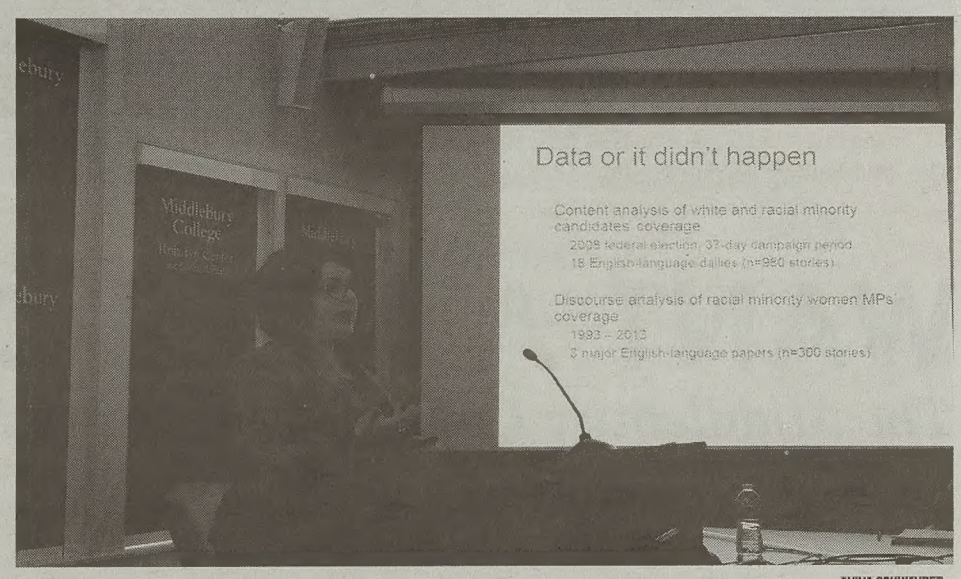
"Everyone was very engaged and the inter-disciplinary nature of the conference shone through," she said. "One of my favorite aspects of the conference was the dialogue between the scholars, local Vermont journalists and student editors."

The conference started with an Atwater dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Thursday featured Professor of Political Science Erik Bleich; Professor of Media, Culture and Communications at New York University Rodney Benson; Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto Erin Tolley; and Associate Professor of Political Science Bertram Johnson.

Bleich and Benson spoke on media portrayals of minorities in the U.K. and France, respectively.

Tolley and Johnson discussed racial politics in North American media — Tolley focused on Canadian media while Johnson focused his discussion on media in the United States.

Friday featured two panels. The first, "A Local Perspective: Vermont Journalists," included *Burlington Free Press* journalist Jessica Aloe, *VT Digger* reporter Adam Federman and *Addison County Independent* journalist Gaen Murphree. The panel discussed the steps their publications have taken to minimize bias in reporting and fairly represent Vermont's small minority population. Angelo Lynn, editor and publisher of the *Addison County Independent*, moderated the session.


Data or it didn't happen
Content analysis of white and racial minority candidates' coverage
2008 federal election, 37-day campaign period
18 English-language dailies (n=980 stories)
Discourse analysis of racial minority women MPs' coverage
1993 – 2013
3 major English-language papers (n=300 stories)

AVIVA SCHWAYDER

Erin Tolley, assistant professor at the University of Toronto, spoke in the Rohatyn Center about minority representation in the Canadian media.

The reporters discussed such topics as Syrian refugee settlement in the state and the migrant labor that fuels local agriculture. Federman said the city of Rutland has received "an astonishing amount of attention" for its response to Syrian refugee families and has become a "prism" through which to view the refugee resettlement issue.

Murphree highlighted the experience of Jamaican seasonal workers, who help with pruning trees and picking apples at orchards across the state, including some near the College. She added that farm workers are a critical, if unseen, part of the Addison County community.

Later in the conference, leaders of student-run publications at the College convened to discuss "A Campus Perspective: Objectivity, Op-Eds and Freedom of the Press." Both Ellie Reinhardt '17, editor-in-chief of the *Campus*, and Editor at *Middbeat* Brandi Fullwood '17 shared their experience with managing forums for student thought and offered insight into each publication's unique editorial process. Johnson moderated this final panel.

Fullwood said that as *Middbeat* is student-funded and is regarded as less a part of the College 'institution' than the *Campus*, it can publish pieces that are somewhat angrier and somewhat more critical of student life on campus.

Middlebury Hosts Debate Tournament

By Alex Newhouse
Features Editor

On Friday, Jan. 20, dozens of students from different universities descended on Middlebury College for the North American Debate Championships (NorthAms). The tournament took place over the course of the weekend and featured close to 200 debaters from schools across Canada and the United States. Students came to compete with other teams and debate topics on politics, social issues, the environment and culture.

This was the first time that the College had hosted a tournament of this importance, and it was a significant accomplishment for the Middlebury Debate Society. Relative to other debate clubs, the Middlebury Debate Society is still relatively small, and hosting NorthAms gave the organization additional exposure. Noah Liebmiller '17.5, a member of the Debate Society who judged during NorthAms, said, "Middlebury was a good fit to host, since NorthAms is typically run by a small-but-growing program that wants to build its reputation on the circuit, something I think we certainly achieved."

The tournament featured competition in North American-style debate, which pits two teams of two students against each other. The "Government" team presents a pre-written case, so it has the ability to set the topic. The "Opposition" team then responds to it and attempts to refute the case. These topics can be extremely diverse, covering policy issues to funny hypotheticals. Liebmiller, who judged several rounds during the tournament, said that his favorite topic had to do with literature and culture: "Is it better to have science fiction that presents an optimistic or pessimistic view of the future and technology?"

For the student organizers of the event, logistics proved complicated and challenging.

"We had to accommodate upwards of two hundred people, feed them, and provide them with judges and topics for debating over three days," Liebmiller said.

The Debate Society had to work out deals with the Marriott in Middlebury to house the debaters, cater seven meals in total and hire vetted judges from other schools to help adjudicate. The group ran into several logistical issues along the way as they attempted to ensure that so many students from different schools made it out to Vermont and were fed and housed.

> ***"We had to accommodate upwards of two hundred people, feed them and provide them with judges and topics for debating over three days."***
>
> **NOAH LIEBMILLER '17.5**
> **DEBATE TEAM MEMBER**

"A lot of the problems we initially faced were due to the sheer size of the tournament," Allyson Stevens '19 said. "What building on campus could hold 250 people in one room comfortably? Where can we have a party for 250 people? How do we feed 250 people? Being such a small campus made these things difficult."

Charlotte Massey '18.5 explained that one of the hardest parts of the tournament was getting students to the College.

"It's challenging for a small school to handle that many people," she said. "We had to find hosts for almost 80 people and provide shuttles from Burlington which was difficult to coordinate."

But, the organizers say, there were not any big problems during the whole tournament.

"All of that ran on time with no complaints ... from the visiting competitors, which, for debaters, is something of an achievement," Liebmiller said. "I've competed at NorthAms in years previous, and in terms of timeliness and level of interest, I can confidently say ours stacked up very favorably."

When the tournament finished on Sunday evening, it was consensus that the tournament had been very well-run. Debate tournaments are often long-running, slow-moving and inefficient affairs, but the organizers from the Debate Society all remarked on how organized this particular tournament was. "It was one of the best-run tournaments I've ever been to," Massey said.

"The experience, at least for me, was pretty stressful and my entire life was dedicated to debate for at least three full days," Stevens said. "It turns out, though, that it was all very worth it. I would overhear other schools saying how organized we were and how much they loved the food. Several schools came up to us after the tournament and said that this was one of the best run tournaments they have ever been to."

Massey emphasized the fact that this tournament was a huge undertaking for the Middlebury Debate Society, which traditionally has only hosted small, more local tournaments. NorthAms crowns the champion of both Canadian and American debate circuits, so it requires near-perfect coordination to pull off. But in spite of the challenges, the College's Debate Society still showed the debate circuit that even though it is small, it can successfully organize a tournament that runs on time — something rarely seen in the debate world.

ALLYSON STEVENS

The Middlebury Debate Society eats a meal at Sabai Sabai to unwind after hosting the North American Debate Championships.

WANT A PIECE OF THE ACTION?
The Middlebury Campus is always seeking new voices. Writers are needed in the following sections:
ONLINE
SPORTS
ARTS&SCIENCES
OPINIONS
NEWS
FEATURES
To express interest, please send an email to campus@middlebury.edu detailing the section(s) for which you'd like to write.

SGA Passes Free Tampon Bill

By Joana Salievska
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) unanimously passed a bill on Jan. 15 to make the fifty-four tampon dispensers on campus free of charge starting in 2018.

The bill affirms the SGA's belief in "the importance of feminine hygiene and menstrual equity" and its desire to destigmatize periods for students on campus. The bill states that the SGA will cover the cost of converting the tampon dispensers and the product for the rest of this financial year. Beginning in 2018, the administration will cover the cost of the product and maintaining the dispensers.

Lucy Grindon '19 thinks the bill will help improve student health and wellbeing on campus regardless of gender.

"I think it's great, especially since the school makes such an effort to give out condoms. I realize that both boys and girls need condoms, but men are the ones who actually use them, and I guess in a way, boys and girls both need tampons since the whole campus would be less sanitary if girls didn't have access to menstrual products" Grindon said.

Kyle Wright '19.5, Brainerd Commons senator, said the bill is an indication of the progressive tone of the student government.

> ***"I think it's great, especially since the school makes such an effort to give out condoms. I realize that both boys and girls need condoms, but men are the ones who actually use them, and I guess in a way, boys and girls both need tampons since the whole campus would be less sanitary if girls didn't have access to menstrual products."***
>
> LUCY GRINDON '19

"If you look at our work, the number of bills we have passed, it is limited, but substantive. Middlebury has been slow to consider passing a bill like this, but President [Karina] Toy '17 worked hard to get it done," he said.

SGA President Toy spoke with facilities and the College administration to make the dispensers free. Toy worked with Associate Director of Facilities Services Melissa Beckwith, Director of Facilities Services Mike Moser and Vice President for Academic Development Tim Spears to calculate costs and organize the removal of the dispensers.

"It was a progressive bill, simple to do, and makes things more inclusive and accessible," Toy said. "It was also something that people had been talking about for a long time and I had heard a lot about from students on campus."

The SGA also debated whether to further expand access to feminine products by adding tampon dispensers to bathrooms where they are not currently located.

"There is a whole conversation going on, not a formal conversation, but a conversation nonetheless, of making bathrooms on campus gender neutral. If we do that, then we would need to put dispensers in every single bathroom. We want to wait and see what happens with that before we add [more] dispensers," Toy said.

GOOGLE

The Student Government Association committed to providing free tampons from the dispensors in all the bathrooms on campus. The dispensors will become free starting in 2018.

Wright is grateful that the SGA is working to make the College a more inclusive and welcoming space.

"A lot of emotions have been stirred by the political climate of the last year. We are scared for our friends. We want to make this campus a safe place to be," Wright said. But changes are subtle and need to start with student participation.

> ***"I personally don't care if people realize that the free tampons/feminine hygiene products in bathrooms was SGA and not some new magical change that happened on its own. If SGA can be useful to students, I am satisfied."***
>
> KYLE WRIGHT '19.5

"Few people know who their senators are" Wright said. Few people participate in SGA elections and take the time to read the meeting minutes and understand what the SGA is doing to help the student body.

"A lot of people use SGA in some way during their time here like going to an event, using the Break Buses, 10 o'clock Ross, NYT subscription, ACTR, but don't realize it and think that SGA doesn't touch their lives. I am fine with that. I personally don't care if people realize that the free tampons/feminine hygiene products in bathrooms was SGA and not some new magical change that happened on its own. If SGA can be useful to students, I am satisfied," he said.

ATTENTION: COLUMNISTS WANTED!

DO YOU GO ON ADVENTURES?
DO YOU WANT TO WRITE ABOUT THEM?
START A COLUMN FOR THE FEATURES SECTION!

INTERESTED COLUMNISTS PLEASE EMAIL
CAMPUS@MIDDLEBURY.EDU

ROHATYN CENTER for **GLOBAL AFFAIRS** aka The RAJ

"We Lost Our Sea Ice, Now What?"

by **Ross Lieb-Lappen '07**, who is teaching the Winter Term course "Ice Cores: By Land and by Sea"
Monday, 1/30, 4:30 p.m., RAJ Conference Room

"Britain Lost Its Empire Years Ago and Is Still Looking for a Role"

by **Toby Fenwick '95**, former head of foreign and defense policy, CentreForum
Tuesday, 1/31, 4:30 p.m., RAJ Conference Room

Middlebury Students Join t

Right after the presidential election on November 8, organizers at Chellis House, the Women's Resource Center, reserved four college vans for the weekend of the inauguration in case students wanted to attend feminist actions in Washington D.C. in January. At the time, the idea of a Women's March on Washington had not yet been fully developed.

"Our feminist collective at Chellis House watched the idea of a March forming on the Internet right after the elections," said Karen Hanta, the director at Chellis House. "At first we were a bit cautious because we didn't know who was organizing the March and whether they would take an intersectional approach. As it became apparent that the March was an inclusive feminist endeavor, we reserved four college vans in November."

Over the break, various student groups came together to begin formal planning. "I was approached by a coalition of student leaders from Women of Color, Feminist Action at Middlebury, Sunday Night Group, the College Democrats as well as some non-affiliated students whether I could help them attend the March in Washington, D.C. As the director of the women's resource center, there was no question that I would organize getting students to the Women's March."

In the end, various organizations at the college put together three vans that drove down to D.C. on Friday, Jan. 20 and returned Sunday. About 30 students traveled in the college vans to attend the Women's March, and many others drove down on their own. The March took place on Jan. 21 with an estimated attendance of 600,000 to a million or more.

Hannah Patterson '19, president of Feminist Action at Middlebury, co-organized the college-sponsored transportation to the March. "The goal was to make transportation more accessible to a wide range of students," Patterson said. "We then publicized sign-ups for the van spaces and after a specific deadline, randomly chose students for the spots that were available. Additionally, we set up a ride-sharing platform for people who weren't able to get a spot on the van or were already driving down separately. We reached out to students with family and friends in the D.C. area and people were incredibly gracious in opening their homes up to us."

Students and administrators who helped organize the vans all shared the belief that participating in the March was very important. "I think it is important for people to use their right to peaceful assembly to safeguard our democracy," Hanta said. "Not only do we speak out for our basic human rights and against misogyny, racism, homophobia, ableism, state-sanctioned violence, economic, environmental and many other forms of injustice, but we also come together to celebrate our heterogeneous, yet unified movement in which every voice counts."

Grace Vedock '20 helped organize the transportation as the co-president of the College Democrats, and she agreed with Hanta about the importance of the March. "The Women's March is a tangible manifestation of support for women and female-identifying Americans," Vedock said. "The First Amendment guarantees all Americans the right to freedom of speech, expression and peaceable assembly. We are simply acting on those rights. We – as College Dems, as Midd students, as Americans and as women – have a right and an obligation to marry the powerful forces of peace and protest. Feminism has an imperfect past, but when I saw the logo for the Women's March, I felt an overwhelming solidarity and acceptance."

Lauren Xiao '17 drove down to D.C. in one of the college-organized vans and found the March empowering. "I wanted to go because I think coming together as a political community with (some) shared values is really important right now, especially when our differences are exploited by a few individuals to divide us," Xiao said. "I believe there is power in physical presence that goes beyond supporting something on social media or intellectually. I went not only to be another body in the streets in order to demonstrate that power to politicians, but also to remind myself of it."

> "Not only do we speak out for our basic human rights and against misogyny, racism, homophobia, ableism, state-sanctioned violence, economic, environmental and many other forms of injustice, but we also come together to celebrate our heterogeneous, yet unified movement in which every voice counts."
> - Karen Hanta, Director of the Women's Resource Center at Chellis House

Omar Valencia '19 got a ride down to D.C. with a friend in order to attend the March, and he also enjoyed the experience. "I went to the March as an ally. As a first generation college student, and as a Latino, I understand what it means to be marginalized and to live in fear that one day the comforts that I once had under a certain set of laws may be repealed at any moment," Valencia said. "Seeing all of these people all coming together for an excellent cause gave me hope that I am not alone in my grievances. That perhaps by the sum of our parts, we can organize to promote positive and progressive change in government ensuring that we have a hopeful and prosperous future."

Sophia Siquiera '19 was also inspired by her experience on Saturday. "I went to the March because I believe in women and our ability to make

Written by Sarah Asch
Designed by Emma Hatheway
Photos by Kyle Wright
Graphics: http://clipart-library.com
http://static1.squarespace.com

n the March on Washington

change," Siquiera said. "We're at a turning point in our country's history, and it is so important now to speak up. I think this March was important because it showed the new administration that we will not sit around and accept them dragging us backwards."

According to Siquiera, the March was an overwhelmingly positive experience. "I thought the March was amazing," she said. "There was a sea of people as far as I could see. It was mind-blowing. I was lucky to be close enough to the stage to hear the speeches and performances at the beginning, and they were all wonderful and inspiring," she said. "It was incredible to hear from the three national co-chairs of the March, and I appreciated their focus on women of color. There was great diversity in the speakers, and this was incredibly important."

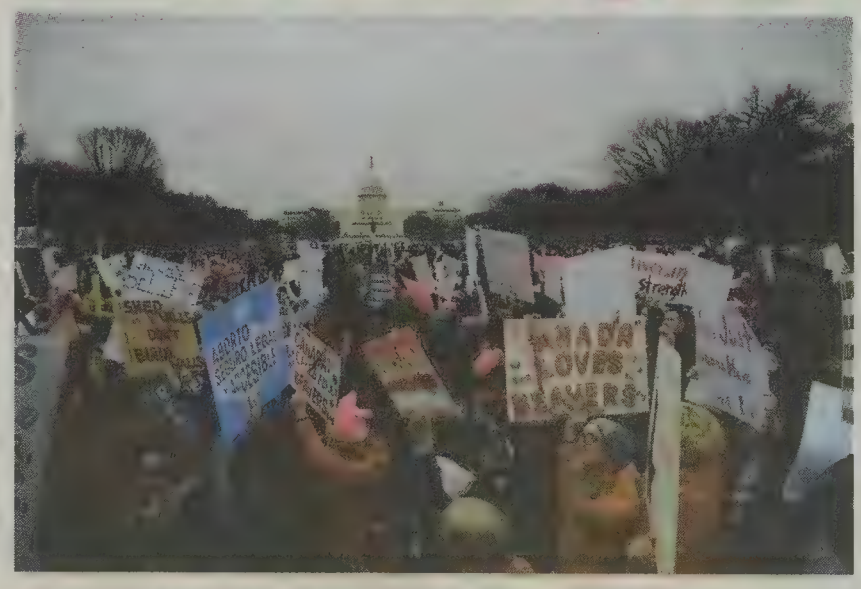
Though she enjoyed the experience, Siquiera did notice that the majority attendees were white. "I think the lowlight of the March [for me] was the general lack of diversity amongst the crowd," she said. "The Marchers were overwhelmingly white women; there were few women of color beyond the speaking list. I wish I could've seen greater diversity at the March. Intersectional feminism is key."

College Democrats Co-president Lucy Grindon '19 also noticed the lack of the diversity at the March. "I was worried that the March would have a white feminist tone, and the majority of the people in attendance were white, but almost all of the speakers shared intersectional messages, and I was encouraged to see that there was resounding applause for the speakers' most inclusive ideas," Grindon said.

Grindon also pointed out another problem – that some of the messages shared by the crowd were not always inclusive of transgendered women. "Although I believe the organizers of the March made a real effort to highlight the concerns of transgender women, I don't think the March was totally inclusive of them," she said. "For example, I understand that the pink 'pussy hats' were a specific response to Trump's past behavior and comments, but they placed a

big emphasis on vaginas, which not all women have."

Despite these issues, most of the Middlebury students who attended the March were glad that they went. "I am very happy with how the trip went," said Alice Butler, a member of the environmental Sunday Night Group who helped organize transportation. "I personally was very moved by a lot of the signs people were holding up," she said. "The signs that I found really touching were the ones that actually



"I hope that students will also continue to explore their specific positioning within this action, acknowledge the exclusionary aspects of white feminism, and seek to stay informed and willing to continue resisting."

- Hannah Patterson '19, President of Feminist Action at Middlebury

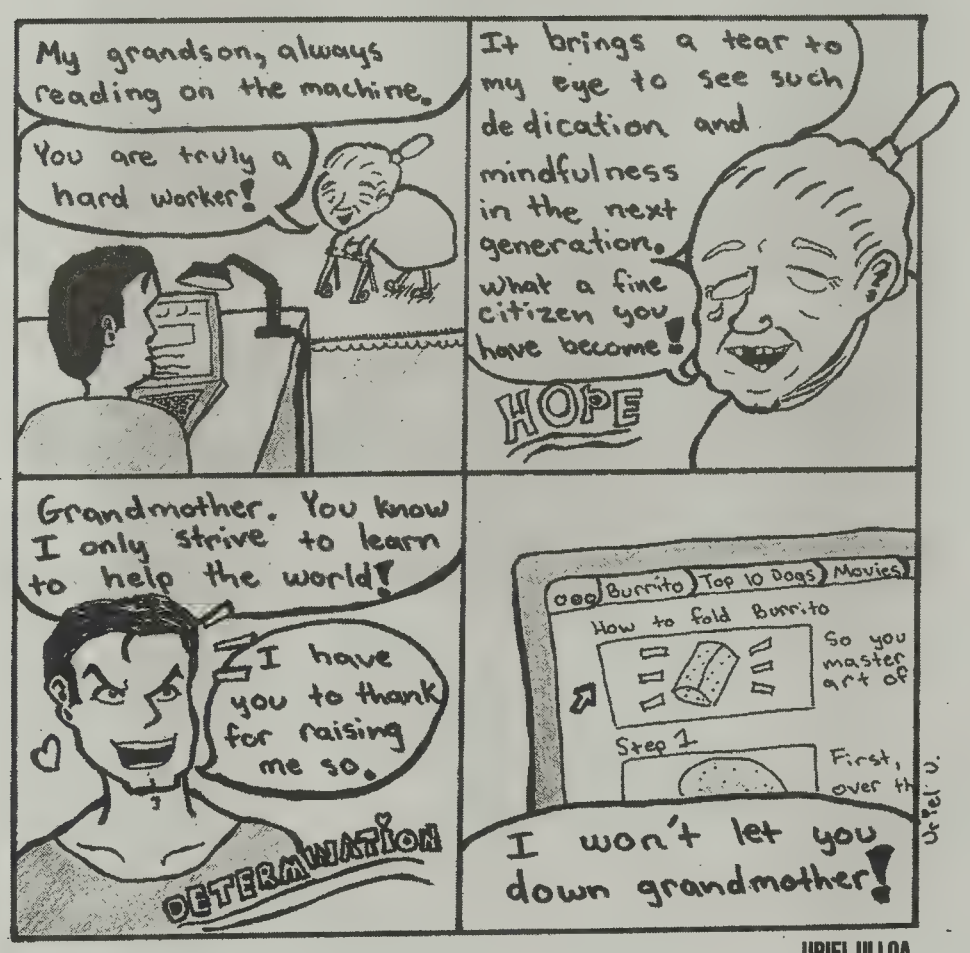
humanized the March for me and made me realize that this movement is much larger than those who were actually marching, but also those folks who couldn't make it."

Going forward, the student organizations that helped set up vans to the March hope to capitalize on the momentum of the experience and involve Middlebury students in concrete actions. To that end, a group of student who attended the March created a Facebook group called "Middlebury's First 100 Days" to help students take the actions recommended by the Women's March for the first hundred days of the Trump administration. The first event they have planned is a postcard writing breakfast so students can contact their congressional representatives and make their voices heard.

"I hope that students who attended the March were activated or will continue to feel a desire to engage and push momentum onward," Patterson said. "That being said, I hope that students will also continue to explore their specific positioning within this action, acknowledge the exclusionary aspects of white feminism, and seek to stay informed and willing to continue resisting. In this way, I hope that by participating, students will foster an engagement with the intersectional aspects of social justice movements beyond this particular event."

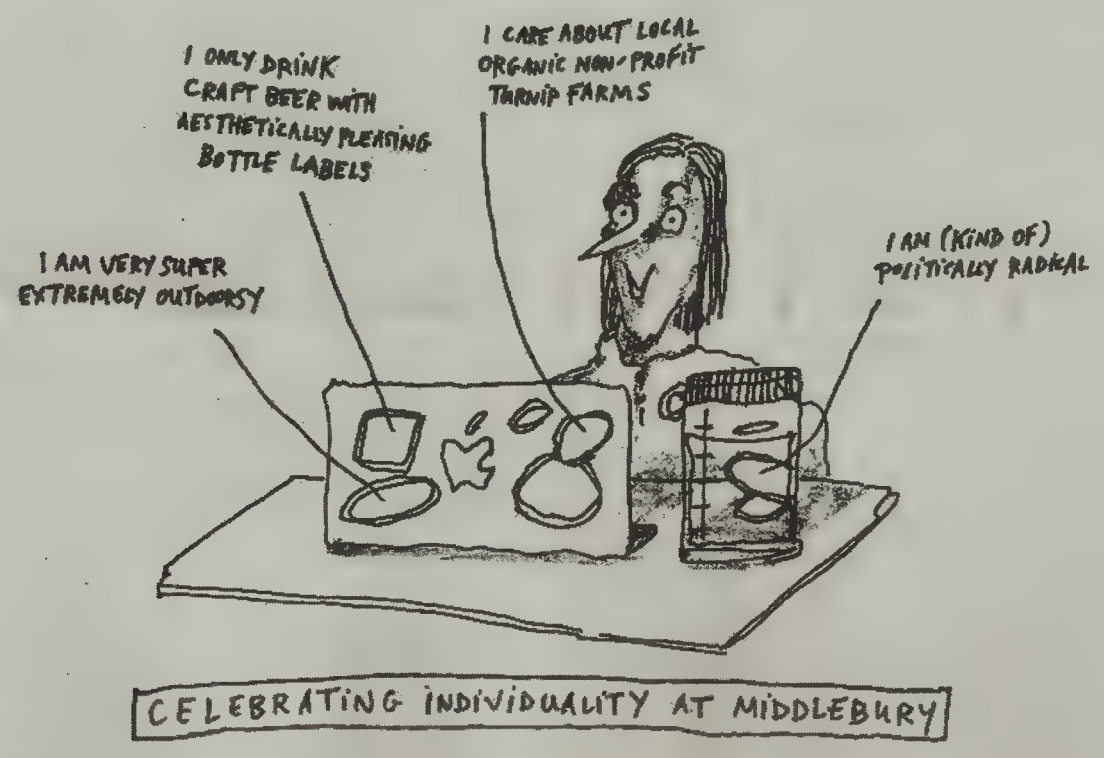
CARTOONS

The Middlebury Campus


My grandson, always reading on the machine.
You are truly a hard worker!
It brings a tear to my eye to see such dedication and mindfulness in the next generation. what a fine citizen you have become!
HOPE
Grandmother. You know I only strive to learn to help the world!
I have you to thank for raising me so.
DETERMINATION
Burrito
Top 10 Dogs
Movies
How to fold Burrito
So you master art of
Step 1
First,
I won't let you down grandmother!

URIEL ULLOA

WIN HOMER


I ONLY DRINK CRAFT BEER WITH AESTHETICALLY PLEASING BOTTLE LABELS
I CARE ABOUT LOCAL ORGANIC NON-PROFIT TURNIP FARMS
I AM VERY SUPER EXTREMELY OUTDOORSY
I AM (KIND OF) POLITICALLY RADICAL
CELEBRATING INDIVIDUALITY AT MIDDLEBURY

MILLIE VON PLATEN

College Cats: Senior Year by Emily Cox go/comicsbyemily

EMILY COX

NOLAN ELLSWORTH

College Cats: Senior Year by Emily Cox go/comicsbyemily

EMILY COX

Can you please describe your IPA selection?
We'll take 3 mojitos. You've got fresh mint right?
I'll have A Pissed Off Japanese Minnow Farmer.
Can I just get A Bud - whoa!

WIN HOMER

It's going to be a long way to work. Better crank some tunes to set my mood.
BUS
What am I feeling today? What sort of day will today be?
MUSIC
SHUFFLE
Jams
Workout
Study
I know! I'll let FATE decide!
NOPE NOPE NOPE NAH TOO SAD
NOT CHRISTMAS NOPE
SKIP
Heya co-worker! Welcome to WORK!
Nice day, huh?
Uriel O.

URIEL ULLOA

NOLAN ELLSWORTH

VAASU TANEJA

Women's March

So your inauguration didn't bring a huge turnout, big deal...
Wait! Look, a huge crowd coming to celebrate me!
Why are they a day late?
You can't ban my religion!
Climate change is REAL
BLM
I STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD
Protect trans rights!
immigrants make America Great!
Stupid women, probably got the date wrong.
Yeah, they're the stupid ones.
Nice.
KAITLYND COLLINS

Cartoons by:
Emily Cox
Win Homer
Millie von Platen
Vaasu Taneja
Kaitlynd Collins
Nolan Ellsworth

CARTOONISTS NEEDED!

CONTACT NOLAN ELLSWORTH → nellsworth@middlebury.edu

Middlebury A Cappella New Releases

By Sabine Poux
Arts & Sciences Editor

ERICK MASIAS

The Dissapated Eight, the College's oldest a cappella group, dresses in dapper attire for performances. They will be recording after J-term.

CDs take a lot of time to make. From song conception, to recording, to producing, the process of creating a finished record is painstaking and exhaustive. It requires careful precision and patience. Lots and lots of patience.

Three of the College's a cappella groups are recording CDs this year: the Paradiddles, the Dissipated Eight and the Middlebury Mamajamas. The Paradiddles and Dissipated Eight are recording in the spring, while the Mamajamas are recording this J-term.

The Paradiddles, one of the College's female a cappella groups, will be recording an album from April 21 to 23 using JBS Recording from Brooklyn. Since JBS has a "mobile recording studio," they will be able to record right on campus.

"We last recorded fall 2013," Emma Picardi '17.5 said, "and we've been raising funds through paid shows and through MiddStart."

The group also raised money in the fall when they spent a day singing in parks in Burlington — otherwise known as "busking" — and sold copies of their last CD to passersbys. Come April, the group plans to record some of their more recent material.

"We're trying to get a lot of the newer songs that have been arranged for us onto a CD," Laurel Rand-Lewis '20 said. "A lot of our usual repertoire has not been recorded yet."

Rand-Lewis joined the group during the fall semester. This will be her first CD recording with the Paradiddles.

"I think it's going to be very different going into this semester, like really trying to grind and get everything perfect for the CD," she added. "But I'm up for it."

The Dissipated Eight is also up to the challenge, and will be recording in the spring. Colloquially called D8, the all-male group is the College's oldest a cappella group.

"We will be recording hopefully right after graduation, at a studio in town called LionTone studio," Erick Masias '18 said. Masias is the group's music director. "[The studio] is run by a D8 alum, Clint Bierman '97. We will be using the funds from our fall shows, Feb Break Tour and spring shows."

So how might a Middlebury student have time for such an ambitious endeavor? I mulled over the question as I geared up this past Friday for two busy weekends chock-full of 28 hours total of recording with my a cappella group, the Middlebury Mamajamas. The preceding week was spent preparing a total of 11 songs, most of which had been previously unrecorded by our group. The songs covered a wide range of styles, from Pentatonix's made-for-a-cappella original "Run to You" to a cover of Alt-J's "Breezeblocks".

Our upcoming CD, the name of which is to be determined, will be recorded over the course of two J-Term weekends. During the first weekend, we recorded the backing tracks to many of the songs. For the second weekend, we plan on finishing the backing-tracks in addition to adding in the soloists' tracks and body percussion (such as stomps and claps). While at first it felt strange singing the songs without their respective soloists, we soon became used to the format.

We recorded with Mr. Lane Gibson, a Vermonter who runs a full-scale music recording and mastering business on his property in Charlotte, Vt. (a 35-minute drive from the College). In the live room, we were set up with microphones for each member of the group, and Mr. Gibson adjusted each mic to fit our individual voices. We recorded each track multiple times and listened to the tracks as a group, deciding which were best to use for the final copy.

This deliberation wasn't always so easy — each track had parts that were good and bad, and we would sometimes have to decide whether the not-so-great sections were good enough for the final cut. Some songs were only recorded in two to three tries, while others took many more attempts. Mr. Gibson gave us lots of advice along the way, telling us which parts he could dub over and edit and which parts he thought we should re-record.

So far, the recording process has been a positive one. According to some members of the Mamajamas, this year's process has been a stark contrast from the recording process of three years ago. This is because the Mamajamas worked with a different producer to create their last CD, "Winter."

"For the last CD we recorded all the parts individually, which was disjointed, and it felt like I was performing for the producer rather than the producer working for us," Harry Cramer '16.5 said. "The recording process this year has been a lot less painful because we recorded as a group instead of individually, which allowed us to gel in the recording studio and has been more authentic and more musical."

As a group, we definitely were able to "gel" in the studio, and singing together allowed us to feed off each other's energy. This made the process less of a chore. However, it was still a lot of hard work.

"It's kind of like basting a turkey," Cody Cintrón '17 mused. "It takes a lot more juice to get it basted than you think."

Raising funds for this project was no small task; recording a CD is more expensive than one might think. Much funding came from paid gigs that the Mamajamas did last spring, as well as the tour that we went on this fall. During our fall tour, we traveled to Boston, New York City and many places in between, raising money along the way and staying with members' families. We sung at various schools and taught workshops to earn money, and even sang on the Highline in New York City.

Midd a cappella fans can start getting excited about the upcoming CDs. There is a lot of new music coming out, so make sure you keep your eyes and ears peeled.

THE MIDDLEBURY PARADIDDLES FACEBOOK

The Paradiddles snap a selfie while busking in Burlington. The group will be recording a CD in the spring.

DON'T MISS THIS

Dance Company of Middlebury
Border / Zones culminates the two-semester creative process of the Dance Company of Middlebury (DCM), guided by artistic director Scotty Hardwig. This convery centers on themes of boundaries and borders between nations, people and ideas.
1/27-28, FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 8 P.M., DANCE THEATRE

City of Angels
The winner of the 1990 Tony Award for Best Musical, as well as Best Book and Best Score, *City of Angels* is the latest in the popular tradition of winter term productions coproduced by the Department of Music and Town Hall Theater. Douglas Anderson directs, with affiliate artist Carol Christensen as music director.
1/27-30 FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, 8 P.M., SUNDAY, 2 P.M., TOWN HALL THEATER

Meditation in the Museum
Clear your mind in our galleries as Professor of the Arts John Huddleston leads a 30-minute meditation workshop. Geared for those new to meditation, this workshop will focus on sitting, breathing and walking techniques. Limited to the first 15 participants. Part of the Fridays at the Museum series. Free and open to the public.
1/27 FRIDAY, 12:15 P.M., MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

Student Pens Play about Media and Love

By Finne Murphy
Arts & Science Editor

Chronic Blush, *a play written by and starring Cole Merrell '19, will be running in the Hepburn Zoo from Jan. 28 to 30. It will be directed by Eliza Renner '18 and also stars Victoria Isquith '19 Sam Martin '19, Madeleine Russell '19, as well as a handful of voice actors. The crew includes Stephen Chen '19.5, Sarah Gratz '19 and Joseph Haggerty '19.*

Finne Murphy (FM): Would you be able to give me a synopsis of the play in a sentence?

Cole Merrell (CM): I had to write one for the box office. You ready for this? "Set in the near future, two siblings attempt to navigate an electric, media-saturated world in the wake of a spectacular explosion."

FM: What was your inspiration for the play?

CM: I think the simplest answer I could give is that about a year ago I got weirdly obsessed with the *Challenger* launch. I looked up footage and information about it. The fact that it happened intrigued me. I had heard about it, but it took on a new resonance. It stuck with me.

I also wanted to write a play for Sam [Martin '19] and Madeleine [Russell '19] to do, and this idea of a space shuttle explosion kept coming back to me. That was probably the kernel that then became this play. There are a lot of other things that went into it too, but that's probably the most interesting one.

FM: What do Sam and Madeleine have to do with this?

CM: The actors or the characters?

FM: Oh, the actors... Is that their names? They kept their first names?

CM: I did that. They don't like it, but... yeah. They approached me earlier this year, and they were talking about doing a play together, but it just didn't really seem like it was going anywhere. I wanted to write a play because I wasn't involved in any theater classes because I got to campus late, and so I was just in all these weird classes. I wanted to do something creative. I approached them about it, and we talked a lot about what they were interested in and ideas that were interesting to them.

We discussed concerns they had about the future because the play is set in the future. All of that congealed into what the play is. So if people don't like it, it is equally as much their fault.

> ***"The play is one part* The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, *two parts* Interstellar, *two parts Adam Sandler's* Click, *three parts Don DeLillo's* White Noise *and two parts the New Testament."***
>
> COLE MERRELL '19

FM: Have you ever written a play that you actually put to stage?

CM: No. Last year I took Playwriting I with [Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre] Dana Yeaton — who is amazing and kindhearted and brilliant and a beautiful person. I did a reading of the final play I wrote for that class in the Gamut room but that was a 30-minute play and this is a full-length play. And this play involves quite a lot of tech.

FM: Can you go into the tech aspect of it? Without giving anything away.

CM: Yeah. So the play is set 20-30 years in the future — we're purposefully vague by not giving the exact year — but it's set in the future. Artificial intelligence plays a huge part in the show. One of the main characters is an AI. We've staged certain scenes around technological themes.

We used a lot of technology in terms of media. That was the dumbest way to say that. There's a lot of media in the show. There are constantly headlines being read and sensationalized. I would hope that the way that I've written the headlines and blurbs and sounds gives people... I hope there's something politically resonant about it.

FM: I was going to ask if you use media as commentary.

CM: I always hope there's some kind of commentary. I would say there is some pretty offensive stuff in the show, and I would say that it is stuff I wouldn't have felt comfortable putting in a play to be performed if I didn't think it had a purpose — a satirical motivation.

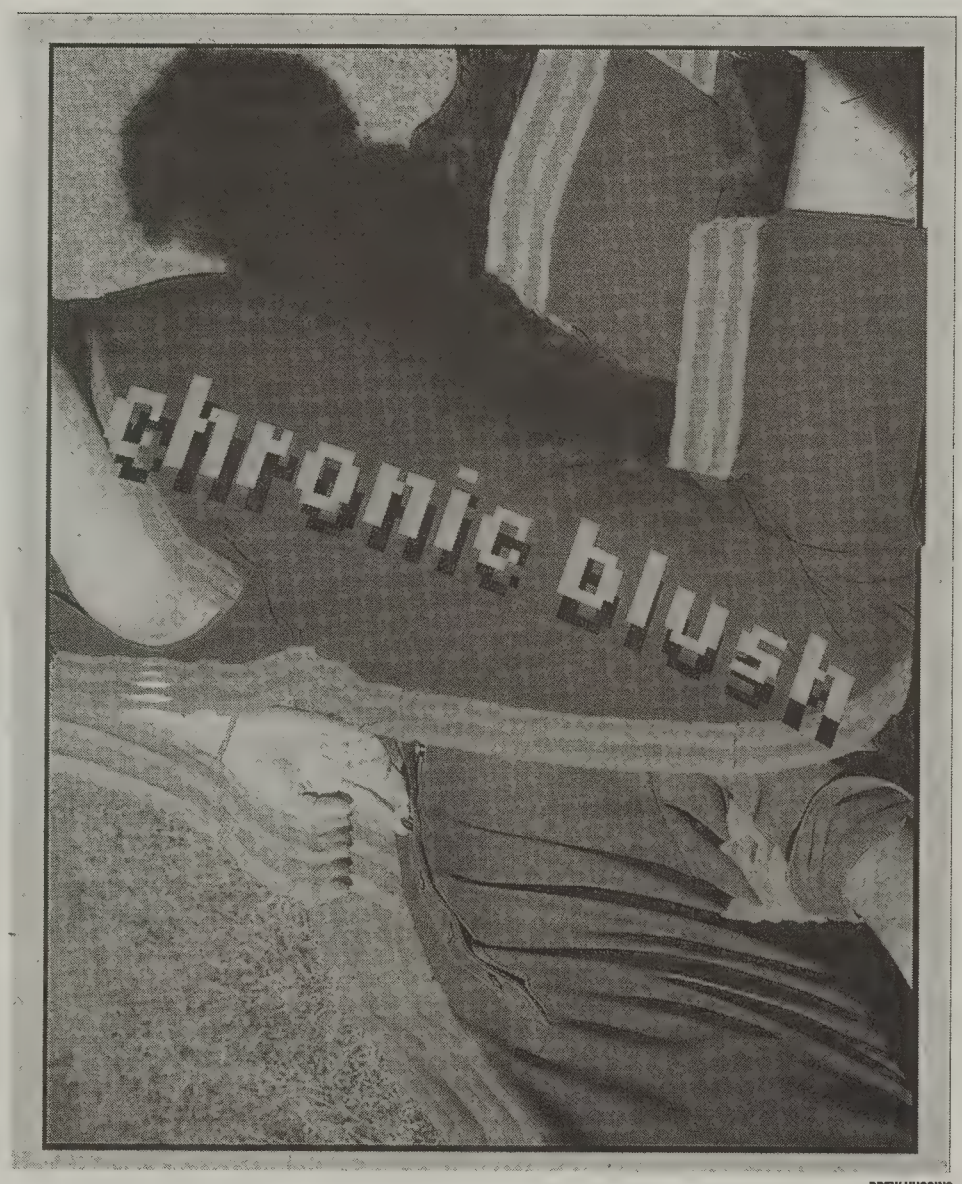
FM: Is playwriting something you want to continue doing?

CM: I don't know. It's really hard. And I don't think I'm really good at it. I think I feel a lot more confident in my short story writing and essay writing than I do in my playwriting.

Plays are so dependent on plot and dramatic action, and if you don't have a really good sense of those things in every scene, it can get really boring.

I think this play turned out pretty good because I used a lot of gimmicks.

FM: You're also an actor. How do you use that experience to write the play?



DREW HUGGINS

Chronic Blush is a play starring, written and directed by Middlebury students.

CM: Hmm...

FM: Are you acting in it?

CM: Yeah. I'm in it for totally selfish reasons. When I started writing it, I knew I was going to be involved. I didn't want to be there for just part of the process. I didn't want to be gone for rehearsal. Initially, the character that I wrote for myself was really small and had a scene at the beginning, one in the middle and one in the end. Madeleine makes fun of me because I'm more or less the main character now.

I don't really consider myself an actor. It's kind of fun, but when I get in a room with Madeleine, Sam and Toria, they're really acting. I have to work a lot harder to get to the same place that they can.

> ***"When we started out, we wanted to five a lot of people the opportunity to express themselves through theater outside of class. As we've gone on, we've had a ton of people help us out in a lot of ways."***
>
> COLE MERRELL '19

FM: How long have you been acting?

CM: Just since I came to Middlebury. I don't really act. But for this, I really wanted to be a part of it.

FM: I understand.

CM: You're going to have a lot of trouble spinning this into a positive article that makes people want to see it.

FM: I'll figure it out. Is there anything else you want to say?

CM: When we started out, we wanted to just to give a lot of people the opportunity to express themselves through theater outside of a class. As we've gone on, we've had a ton of people help us out in a lot of ways.

For instance, we have a ton of voice acting. We spent hours and hours in the recording studio. We've been getting people involved to do video for the show. All sorts of people are involved incostume design, set design, etc. That's one thing we wanted to do. To give a lot of people a chance for artistic expression... Not artistic expression, that's stupid. Change that.

One thing that was great was that it allowed many different people who do many different things to come together and create something. It took me forever to get that quote.

FM: Is that all?

CM: Come see *Chronic Blush*. It is one part *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, two parts *Interstellar*, two parts Adam Sandler's *Click*, three parts Don DeLillo's *White Noise* and two parts the New Testament. If that doesn't sell tickets, I don't know what will.

ELIZA RENNER

Cole Merrell '19 and Madeleine Russell '19 rehearse their roles as troubled brother and sister in Merrell's play *Chronic Blush*.

MIDD MOUTH: FEATURING SCOTT BERKLEY

By Matthew Blake
Featuring Scott Berkeley

This week's Midd Mouth poet is Scott Berkley '16.5. Scott is an English and American Literature major from Concord, Mass. If you went looking, you might find books by Robert Richardson, John Ashbery, James Salter and Annie Dillard on his nightstand, or criticism by Helen Vender, Thomas Gardner and John Elder at his desk. At other times you might find him running or skiing uphill in the mountains of northern New England. Scott and I both arrived at Middlebury in February of 2013. Over the last few years, we have shared many long, rich conversations about poetry and art. I am grateful to call Scott a friend and fellow pilgrim. I will miss you Scott!

IRENE MARIGUTTA

Scott Berkley '16.5 is this week's featured poet.

Matthew Blake (MB): How would you describe your creative process?

Scott Berkley (SB): Unless I'm working under deadline for a workshop or seminar, my process stretches out: first there is the sketching and drafting on a yellow legal pad, then the poem transfers to a notebook and finally to word-processing. I usually find myself responding in draft form to whatever poet I am reading at the moment, and then in revision finding a different voice. Perhaps it is my own? I can't help but research; when I'm working on a longer poem I might have the Iliad in front of me, or I might have a geological history of Vermont or a field guide to the alpine plants of this state.

MB: How would you describe your relationship to poetry?

SB: Wallace Stevens titled one of his final poems "A Mythology Reflects its Region," and it was his intent to write the myths and texts that would sustain us in this land, old and ever-new. If I want to wake up each morning and feel wonder about this world, I need to read poetry, and on occasion write it. Wonder is an opening; it works against what is closed off or made blank. Each word is a wonder, and so we must resist the way everyday speech flattens and oppresses. Fortunately, poets from Hafiz to Lorca to Pound have helped us in our resistance.

Ars Poetica for Falling
By Scott Berkley

I.
Feign to toss me in the air, and I will see this story
to its end, because I am in its thrall
and rounded off like that bottle of Coke
you drank on the bluffs and threw
into the sea below. But feign

because it is still early in the day, and you
cannot choose, cannot wait, cannot think.

Cannot tell me what you are doing, in the corner
with those blankets gathered around you.
Like heaving cornices of frost. How alike?

II.
He is falling, the boy says as he tosses
the toy parachutist out into empty air
from unfathomed heights, porch-heights. He is falling,

but is he traveling anywhere that you
would know? Beyond him the structure of the house
melts into itself. The beams are swaying in the light,
suggesting impermanence. Like a stolen violin that plays,

though split down the middle, for an orchestra of clouds
above and along the perimeter of the room. Alike?

I throw him, says the boy. As though I knew the reasons for flight
and awoke in the grip of revelation to see the ground below.

School of the Enviornment May Expand

By Robert Cassidy
Contributing Writer

While the Middlebury Summer Language Schools and Bread Loaf School of English are well known, the College's campus also harbors another summer school: The Middlebury School of the Environment.

Compared to some of the College's other well-known summer programs, the School of the Environment is relatively young, having been founded only two years ago in 2015. However, the program is another step in the College's commitment to environmental education that started with the nation's first undergraduate environmental studies program in 1965.

Like the College's other summer college programs, the School of the Environment offers an immersive learning experience, taking place over the course of six weeks during the summer. Zane Anthony '16.5, an Environmental Studies and Architecture Studies major who attended the program last summer, said that the program is different from your typical college summer program.

"As summer programs go, the School of the Environment succeeds in upending stereotypes associated with deluxe summer sessions on college campuses. Our professors used leading-edge Vermont farms, businesses and natural landscapes as training tools," Anthony said. "The school honed in on mobilizing people to action. I appreciated this tremendously, and it's what makes the School of the Environment different than other programs in this country with environmental slants."

Anthony also pointed out that the program's youth has benefits and impacts how it is run.

"The School is still an experiment, for both the College and the instructors – though if the founder, Steve Trombulak, had anything to say about it, I'd imagine he'd like to keep it that way," Anthony said. "It's a fluid, experiential, tech-enabled approach to education, in the same vein as some of the best and most innovative secondary schools in this country."

BRETT SIMISON

Students in the School of the Enviornment conduct research on the Middlebury research vessel, the R/V David Folger.

"The School of Environment has always planned on trying to develop an international component."
STEVE TROMBULAK
DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT

As of right now, the experiment is limited to Middlebury's main campus. However, the College has considered bringing the School of the Environment to the international level. Professor of Environmental and Biosphere Studies and Director of the School of the Environment Steve Trombulak spent a portion of the fall semester traveling to Kunming, China, a potential location for expansion. While the expansion has received a lot of attention, Trombulak was adamant that a definite decision has yet to be made.

"We have made no commitment to China, we are only exploring the opportunity to expand our environmental commitment," Trombulak said. "However, I am excited about the possibility of expanding to Kunming."

According to Trombulak, if the new branch in Kunming was approved immediately, it still would not be opened until 2018 at the earliest.

Trombulak also pointed out that the School's expansion is by no means a new topic of discussion.

"The School of the Environment has always planned on trying to develop an international component," Trombulak said.

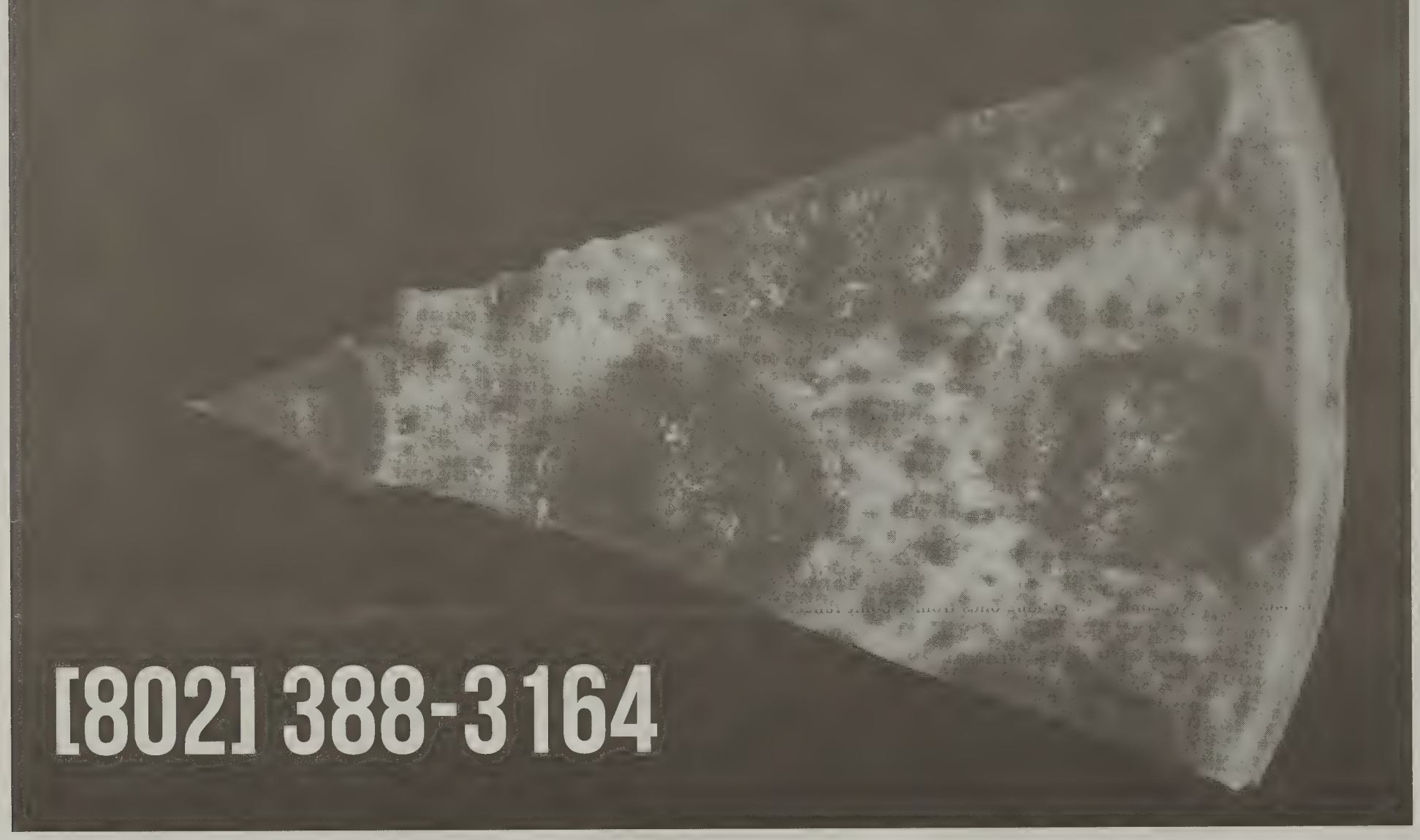
Trombulak's hopes and plans for the School do not seem to be phased by recent political trends. Despite international rises in political conservatism, something that is typically deemed harmful to environmental conservation, Trombulak's expectations for the School remain the same.

"The Trump presidency will not affect our approach to the curriculum. Issues are largely regional and will remain the same, but will change in detail," Trombulak said. "The School has grown in students and in courses, and my hope is that it will continue to grow."

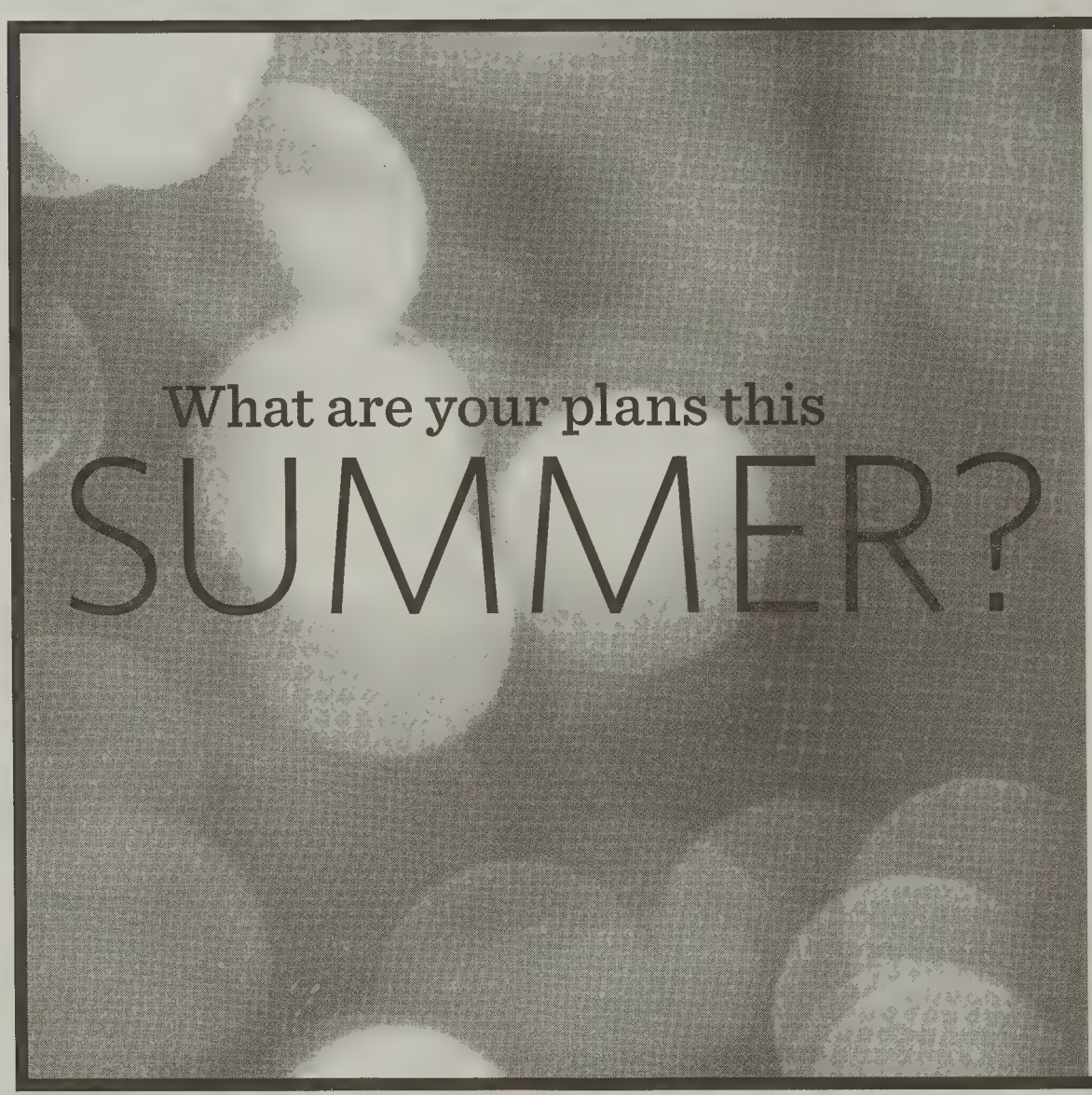
THE OFFICIAL PIZZA OF THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

GREEN PEPPERS

LOCAL | HANDCRAFTED | FRESHLY PREPARED | AT YOUR CONVENIENCE



[802] 388-3164



What are your plans this SUMMER?

- EARN CREDIT
- EARN MONEY
- GAIN EXPERIENCE

Learn more at
go/middsummer

TOUGH WEEKEND FOR SQUASH AT HANDS OF TOP-RANKED COMPETITION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

there were several excellent performances.

Audrey Ellen '17 – older sister of the men's number two, Jacob – won her senior day match in five sets, which included a marathon 17-15 second-game victory for Ellen.

Lucy Bostwick '18 continued her winning ways with a four-set win in the sixth spot for the Panthers. Bostwick's third set loss was her first since returning from abroad, snapping a 23-set win streak.

Fellow junior Liddy Renner '18 had a big win for the Panthers in the fourth slot, as she rallied from down two sets to one to win in five. She split her four-to-11 and five-to-11 losses in the first and third games with an 11 to nine win in the second set. After another close 11 to nine win in the fourth set, Renner managed to finish off her opponent with an 11 to seven win in the fifth set.

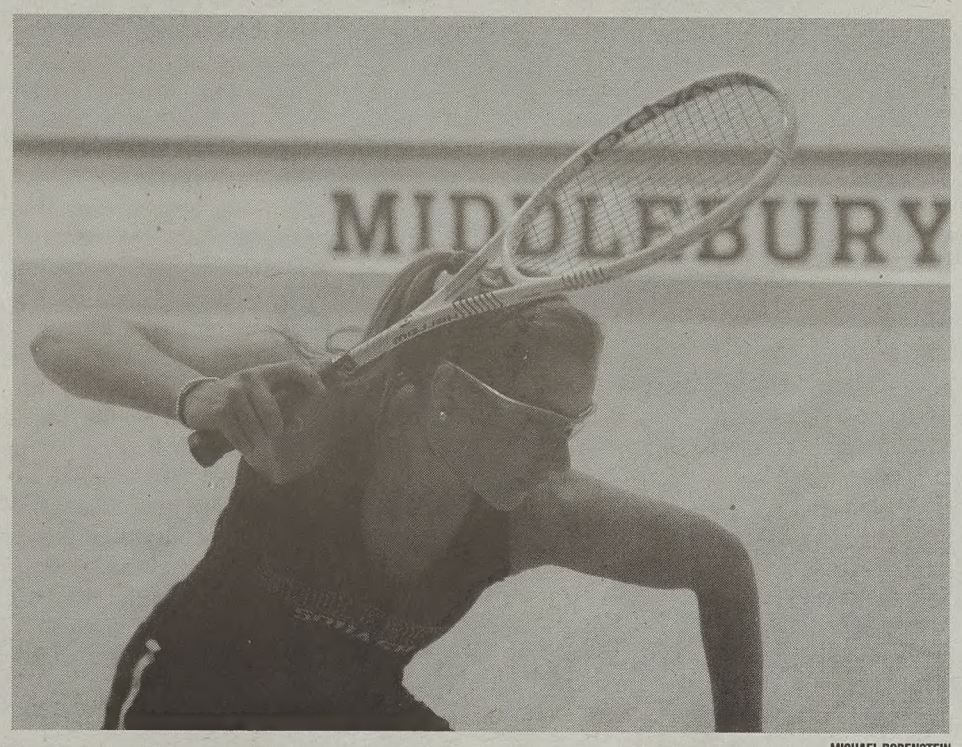
"I mean Williams is always a really great match no matter what year," said Renner. "I think the fact that it was our last home match on our court and it being our senior day put a lot of good pressure on the match."

As was the case on the men's side, the women's squad knows that it will see the Ephs again in a couple of weeks – if not in NESCACs then at the team championships. In anticipation of playing her opponent again, Renner said that she will look to come out firing on all cylinders from the first serve the next time they meet.

"She's a really really dominant player," said Renner. "I think I need to come on court way more warmed up and ready to go from the start because every mistake I made she capitalized on. So I just need to go out a lot faster and be ready to just get out on top faster next time."

While the 14th-ranked women's team managed to defeat 19th-ranked St. Lawrence on Saturday, they fell to 12th-ranked George Washington eight to one earlier in the day and then followed it with a shutout loss to ninth-ranked Dartmouth in Hanover, N.H. on Sunday. The men's side only played one match on Saturday, falling in straight sets to an eighth-ranked St. Lawrence team. Sunday they joined the women's squad in Hanover and also lost in straight sets to a ninth-ranked Dartmouth squad.

The Panthers will be back in action this Saturday, Jan. 28, as both squads travel to Providence, R.I. to take on Virginia at 11:30 a.m. They will then stick around to take on Brown at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Sophomore no. three Alexa Comai '19 forehands a shot against Williams in the Panthers' senior day match last Friday, Jan. 20, at the squash courts. The 15th-ranked Panthers fell to the 11th-ranked Ephs by a final of 6-3.

Men's Basketball Falls Flat Against Ephs

By Phil Bohlman
Senior Writer

After blowing out Green Mountain College on Tuesday, Jan. 17, the men's basketball team fell to Williams College on Sunday, Jan. 22, bringing their record in NESCAC play to 3-2. The Eph's had started their conference schedule 1-4, but their dominant front court and 48 percent from the 3-point line kept the Panthers on their heels for most of the game.

Head Coach Jeff Brown made a slight adjustment to the starting lineup, replacing Adisa Majors '18 with Eric McCord '19, which made sense since McCord has been averaging 22.8 points per game (PPG) and 14.0 rebounds per game (RPG). Defensively, McCord has the size to match up with bigger forwards, but he frequently gets in foul trouble.

In the game, played in Williamstown, Williams Guard Daniel Aronowitz got off to a hot start, scoring the Eph's first seven points, but Matt St. Amour '17 responded on the ensuing three possessions with a pull-up jumper on the baseline, a 3-pointer from the top of the arc, and a driving and-1. He was Middlebury's most consistent offensive player on the afternoon, scoring 24 points in 31 minutes on 9-18 shooting including three long ones from 3-point range. He showed the breadth of his offensive skill set, mixing in pull-up jumpers and floaters with his usual catch and shoot three-pointers.

The Panthers kept it close through the first half, but had trouble rebounding against the bigger Williams front court. Forwards Marcus Soto and James Heskett, who are both 6'8", were difficult assignments for all four Middlebury forwards. Not only did they have a size advantage inside, but they also went a combined 7-11 from 3-point range, forcing the Panther big men into the rare position of guarding out to the 3-point line.

There were promising moments for the Panthers in the first half as Jake Brown '17 had a highlight worthy sequence. Near the end of the first half he poked the ball from Williams forward Kyle Scadlock in transition, saved the ball from going out of bounds, ran the floor and drained a 3-pointer. Freshman guard Perry DiLorenzo '20, a Middlebury native, sank a 3-pointer from two feet off the arc on a handoff from Brown in an action that looked similar to what the Panthers run for St. Amour.

Though the Panther's went to the visitor's locker room down 37-39, in the second half Williams broke the game open early in the second half. The Eph's took a 48-40 lead after Aronowitz drained a 3-pointer and Soto took it hard to the basket for an and-one. The lead only grew from there. McCord and St. Amour were the only two Panthers with any offense going in the half, and a comeback seemed impossible once Jack Daly '18 checked out with his fourth foul with 10 minutes to play — he fouled out five minutes later. Williams won handily, 89-65.

"Every NESCAC team is very good and can beat anyone on any given night," St. Amour said. "We know we have to show up every game with a lot of intensity. Hopefully we can use it as motivation moving forward and never have a performance like that again."

Rebounding, a thorny issue for Middlebury all season, was a problem against Williams. The Eph's collected 18 more rebounds than the Panthers, who now rank last in the NESCAC in defensive rebounding.

Hilal Dahleh '19 has sat out the season thus far with a back injury, and his excellent play off the bench last season would be a serious boon to this year's Panthers who are relying heavily on their starting guard trio — St. Amour, Daly and Brown.

Middlebury will seek to rebound against Lyndon State College on Tuesday, Jan. 24 and back in Pepin Gym on Saturday, Jan. 28. against NESCAC competition, Hamilton College.

Women's Hockey Splits Weekend Match-up in Brunswick

By Sebastian Sanchez
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, the women's hockey team traveled up to Brunswick, Maine to play Bowdoin College for a NESCAC double-header. The Panthers, still ranked sixth in the country, took the first game and lost the second in overtime.

On Friday, Jan. 20, Middlebury came out firing against their Polar Bear hosts. Within the first 10 minutes, Jessica Young '18 almost scored on a break-away, but Bowdoin's goalie challenged her and made the save. About a minute later, the Panthers had another opportunity with a three-on-one advantage but once again, the Polar Bear's goalie batted the attempt away.

In the second period, Young scored the first goal of the day to put Middlebury up by one. After her first shot attempt was denied she followed up on her own rebound and sent the puck into the back of the net — this was Young's eighth goal of the season.

There was not much excitement in the rest of the second period and the Panthers headed into the final period with a one to nothing. However, the Polar Bears evened the score after consecutive power plays three minutes into the final frame.

The Panthers took the lead for good in the third period on Lizzie Sheline '20's first-career goal. Janka Hlinka '18 fed a beautiful pass from the right side to a cutting Sheline who shot the puck into the far post. Bowdoin was unable to find a good scoring opportunity in the closing minutes and Middlebury came away with the two-to-one victory.

"Obviously after a long bus ride, our legs were a little heavy and we had to shake that off as soon as we got to the rink," said Victoria Laven '17. "We adjusted physically and mentally when we got on the ice and it felt good to come back from behind and hold our lead for the rest of the game."

The next day, the game went in a different direction. The Panthers fought off a five-on-three disadvantage due to penalties in the opening period thanks to two saves by first-year goalie, Lin Han '20 and the rest of the penalty-killing unit. Bowdoin, however, scored in the second frame on a power play in the 18th minute due to another Panther penalty. The Polar Bears would maintain the lead through the second and most of the third period.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Bowdoin received a penalty, which provoked Middlebury to pull Han from the net and go on a six-on-four advantage. Hlinka, who was circling the Polar Bear net, deflected a shot from Carly Watson '17 to tie the game at one apiece and send the game into overtime.

Unfortunately, penalties dealt the Panthers the final blow. With 56 seconds left in overtime and three skaters on each side of the ice, a Middlebury miscommunication led to a Bowdoin breakaway and the final goal of the game.

"Our mental game was not up to its fullest capacity and we made a lot of mental errors and Bowdoin capitalized," Hlinka said. "Even though we managed to tie it up within the last couple of minutes of the game, but we lost in over time due to another mental hiccup."

This weekend, Jan. 27-28, Middlebury returns to Kenyon Arena for a two-game series with Hamilton.

"We can't take Hamilton lightly," Hlinka explained. "Their coach is a Midd alum so she knows how our team operates. It's going to be another battle this coming weekend and we are going to keep the lessons of Bowdoin in the back of our minds. But Hamilton is our next priority and we're going to practice hard to prepare."

BY THE NUMB3RS

2 *Shots and goals, for men's hockey's Vincent Gisonti '18 in last Saturday's 5-1 win over Bowdoin College.*

1:21.24 *School-record setting time for Jimmy Martinez '19 in the 600-meter race as last weekend's track meet.*

5 *Three-pointers made by women's basketball's Kira Waldman off the bench in Sunday's win over Williams.*

2:09.20 *Caroline Bartlett '19's total winning time in giant slalom event at the St. Lawrence Carnival.*

Succesful Weekend at Middlebury Winterfell

By Rob Erickson
Sports Editor

Playing host for a second straight week at the Middlebury Winterfell, the Panther men's track and field team cooked up an impressive home win with 184 points overall, outscoring larger D1 schools Albany (179) and Vermont (158.5) as well as Canadian McGill (28.5), a school of over 27,000 undergraduates. Although the Panther women did not necessarily have the same success, with their 106 points putting them in third place behind Albany and Vermont and ahead of McGill, they can still be commended for a number of strong performances that should bode well for the rest of the season when Middlebury goes back to squaring off against DIII opponents.

"Hosting a meet with DI schools was a great experience," said Jimmy Martinez '19, who had a banner day for the Panther men, setting a school record with his first-place finish in the 600m (1:21.24) as well as winning the 200m (22.48).

He continued, we're talking Albany, last year's America East champions, bringing their full squad down here. It only makes us better to face schools like that and I certainly had a blast."

When asked if a meet against big-name competition felt different from the rest, Martinez admitted that even he wasn't immune to the jitters.

"As far as the atmosphere goes, I could tell people were scared, and for good reason," he responded. "I was more nervous than ever warming up."

But for runners like him, when it's game time, all of the noise fades away. "At the end of the day," he explained, "I don't care who you put on the track against me. You step on this track, you better be ready to run."

James Mulliken '18, who was part of the victorious 4x800m relay team, echoed the latter sentiment when talking about the lead-up to the meet.

"I don't think we approached this meet any different than the others," he stated. "Whether we are competing against conference competition or big D1 schools, it doesn't change anything."

Mulliken went on to explain that the team has plenty to focus on without worrying about who lines up in the lanes next to them.

"In an early meet like this," he stressed, "it's important to understand that people are still working themselves back from injury, being abroad, etc. I think it's a testament to our strength and depth as a team that we are winning meets even while missing a good chunk of our team."

The Panthers were able to do so because the athletes who showed up did so in a big way. In addition to Martinez's two wins and the school-record 4x800m relay victory in 7:49.47 (rounded out by Andrew Michelson '19, Mulliken, Nathan Hill '20 and Kevin Serrao '18), Middlebury pole-vaulters John Natalone '19 and Nathaniel Albers '20 tied for first by clearing 13'7".

Second place runners included Alex Nichols '17 in a nail-biter of a 400m race (50.50, just 0.07 seconds behind the first-place finisher), Will Meyer '20 in the 1,000m (2:36.43), and Miles Meijer '19 in the 3,000m (8:51.16). On the field side, Tyler Chaisson '17 placed second in the shot put with a throw of 45'7", while Minhaj Rahman '19 took home second in the weight throw with a toss of 48'0".

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Andrew Michelson '19 takes the turn on the first leg of the 4x800m relay. The Panthers would go on to win the race and set a new school record in the process.

On the women's side, Anna Willig '20 crossed the line first in the 1,000m competition (2:59.70), Meg Wilson '20 placed fourth in the mile race (5:14.03), and the 4x400 relay team of Wilson, Paige Fernandez '17, Emily Mellen '17 and Basia Osborne '19 finished third (4:04.05). In the field events, Kreager Taber '19 cleared 10'6" in the pole vault to earn second place, and Maddie Pronovost '17 jumped 17'1" in the long jump to earn second as well. Kristin Kimble '19 scored third in the high jump (5'0") and Mimi Soule '20 did the same in the triple jump (34'5").

At the end of the day, both the men's and women's teams have a lot to be excited about as they look forward not only to hosting next weekend's Middlebury Invitational, Jan. 27-28, but also to NESCAC championships and beyond.

"We have a much bigger team and a lot of strong freshmen that will make a difference for us," said Martinez in comparing this year's squad to that of last year. "In addition, our returners have all gotten faster as our training has really been cranked up. We've got potential to score more points across the board and I expect an exciting NESCAC meet this spring."

Skiing Opens Season, Bartlett Breaks Records

By Colby Morris
Senior Writer

This past weekend, Jan. 20-21, the Alpine and Nordic ski teams opened up the 2017 winter season with a fifth-place finish in the 17-team field at the St. Lawrence Carnival. The Alpine races took place at Whiteface mountain in Lake Placid, N.Y, while the Nordic races took place at Mt. Vanhoevenberg.

The first day for the Alpine team was especially noteworthy as they stood in first place at the end of competition. Caroline Bartlett '19 won the women's giant slalom (GS) races by nearly four seconds, with the next five competitors all within a second of each other, illustrating how remarkable her four-second advantage in the GS race truly was. Her two runs added up to 2:09.2 minutes.

Bartlett's teammate and fellow sophomore Lexi Calgani's '19 came across the line with combined times of 2:15.14 minutes. Along with Katie Utter's '20 split of 2:15.31 minutes, the women's team totaled combined for a second-place finish, with Bartlett in first, Calgani in ninth and Utter in 11th.

"Combined men and women, we won the giant slalom day which has not been done for a few years," Bartlett said. "It was extra special for me to win that day, knowing we could all share in the victory."

For the men's giant slalom, Rob Cone '17 led the way with a second-place finish at 2:06.05. Cone was followed by Riley Plant '18 who crossed at 2:07.45 which was good for seventh place. Just after Plant was Colin Hayes '17 at 2:07.54, good for eighth place. Their combined times and finishes put the men in second-place overall and allowed gave the Alpine team the overall victory in the event.

Over at Mt. Vanhoevenberg in the classic Nordic sprints on Friday, Evan Weinman '18 was at the top of the pack on the men's side with a ninth place finish at 3:03.16. Next for the Panthers was Adam Luban '17 who was 25th overall at 3:10.96. Sam Wood '19 followed Luban for the Panthers with a time of 3:11.83, good for 34th place and for the threesome to combine for a seventh-place finish in the event.

Cate Brams '18 held the top spot for the Panther women in 11th place overall at 3:37.96. Kaitlin Fink '17 followed Brams with a time of 3:45.82 in 28th place. Finishing out the scorers for Middlebury was Orli Schwartz '20 who finished in 3:50.54 giving her 32nd place. The Nordic women's team also finished in seventh place, giving the Alpine and Nordic teams a combined third place finish after the first day.

On Saturday at Whiteface in the slalom races, Jackie Atkins '20 led the way for the Panthers in 12th overall with her two-run time of 1:43.62. Calcagni followed closely behind in 18th with her finish in 1:44.67 minutes. Hayes was the men's team's lead finisher in slalom, completing the races in 17th overall in just 1:32.02 minutes. The Panther men only had Hayes and Chris McKenna '17 (39th place) finish on Saturday, lowering their standing after day one.

In the 10K Nordic freestyle races, Lewis Nottonson '19's 11th-place finish at 29:15 led the charge, while Wood's time of 30:06 was good for 23rd place. Katie Feldman '18 was the top finisher for the women's team in 31st place at 16:05 in the 5K race.

A tough second day dropped the teams' overall finish to fifth, as the Alpine team's skiing on the first day carried them to that top-five result.

"We're really happy with the team's performance this weekend," said Plant, a team captain. "Friday's race was a reminder that we can be the best team on any given day and Saturday's race was a reminder that we need to stay on our feet and perhaps take a little less risk."

With the New Hampshire carnival at Jackson Center and Mittersill Mountain on tap for tomorrow and Saturday, Jan. 27-28, Plant said that team's effort at St. Lawrence is a sign of good things to come. They showed signs that even better showings may be on the horizon.

"The entire roster, top to bottom, showed great speed this weekend," said Plant. "Finishing third on the Alpine side, just behind historically dominant UVM is a great sign for what the rest of the season has in store for us."

Swimming Closes out Dual-Meet Schedule

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

'18 touching the wall in 1:39.16.

Elissa DeNunzio '18 and Mike Chirico '20 also earned points for the Panther men and women with second-place outcomes in their diving events on the one-meter (255.00 DeNunzio, 283.50 Chirico) and three-meter (261.67 DeNunzio, 286.86 Chirico) boards.

This weekend the Panthers will host the annual Middlebury Invitational, where team members will swim at home for the last time this season in advance of NESCACs.

"We have 20 swimmers and one diver who are shaving and tapering for [this as] their end of the year meet," said Coach Rueppel. "So hopefully they'll hit all best times and end the season on the right note. ... then we [will] move on with the other 48 to NESCACs."

The meet starts on Friday, Jan. 27, at 5:30 p.m. and continues Saturday, Jan. 28, with start times at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT EIGHT

RANKING TEAM
Rob's Round-Up

1 MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
Two first-place team finishes at home meets the last two weekends, team records dropping left and right...

2 WOMEN'S HOCKEY
They've made NCAAs five of the last six seasons. Anything less than perfection (a weekend split against Bowdoin) is almost a disappointment.

3 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Only conference loss came against the best team in the NESCAC, but four 'CAC wins have come against bottom feeders... Expect them to move soon.

4 ALPINE AND NORDIC SKI
Gotta be excited that they're back on the snow after this weekend. Strong showing bodes well for the season.

5 MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tough second half against Williams has them at 3-2 in conference play, but in the 'CAC, everyone forgets about the regular season by the time the tourney comes around anyways.

6 WOMEN'S SWIM AND DIVE
They've had both bright moments and rough spots this season, but the Midd Invite this next weekend will sure be exciting for anyone who has the chance to stop by.

7 MEN'S HOCKEY
Picked up their first win of the season over Bowdoin...by four goals! Save a little for the rest of the schedule, fellas.

8 NFL FANS
Oh, you thought you were gonna get some good games last weekend? That's cute.

Women's Bball Snaps Streak, Dominates Williams

By Jordan Howell
Contributing Writer

The women's basketball team beat Williams last Sunday, Jan. 22 by a final score of 85-57. The Panthers had a very decisive victory, controlling the tempo for a majority of the game. It was the Panthers' first victory over Williams since the 2008-2009 season and snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Ephs.

The first quarter of the game was a back and forth affair. Neither team could get an edge over the other offensively, as both teams buckled down on the defense end of the floor. Emotional energy was added off of both teams' benches as they each shouted "defense" on almost every first quarter possession.

After a scoring drought from both teams, Williams began hitting shots but Middlebury always answered back. The Panthers' goal on offense revolved around getting into the paint to score.

A small run by the Panthers at the end of the quarter was halted by a quarter-ending three by Williams, but the Panthers held the edge 19-16.

The strong defensive showing carried over into the second quarter as the Panthers consistently made their way into the paint and hit several threes. Near the end of the quarter the Panthers made a late run that was capped by a an impressive buzzer beater three to put them up 37-21 as the Panthers outscored the Ephs 18 to five in the quarter,

During the third quarter, Middlebury's main objective was to maintain their lead. Williams tried to get back in the game with consecutive good defensive possessions, but Middlebury did not allow Williams to take advantage as the Panthers pulled away near to the end of the quarter and were in front 61-38. Middlebury's good play continued in the fourth quarter and at one point the Panthers led by as many as 30 points.

This game was a testament to the teamwork and skill that Middlebury has on its roster. The starters played extremely well as four of the five starters finished the game in double figures. However, Kira Waldman '20 sank five of her seven three-pointers off the bench to match starter Betsy Knox '20 with a team-high 17 points. Waldman added five boards and two assists which Knox tallied four rebounds and assists. Catherine Harrison '19 registered another double-double with 11 points and a game high 10 rebounds.

This was a good game where the Panthers were able to mount a massive lead against a competitive Williams squad. Middlebury's 85 points is the most that they have scored so far this season. Another notable accomplishment by Middlebury were their 14 three-pointers, which set a program record.

Other noteworthy statistics include how Middlebury outshot the Ephs 51.7 percent shooting for the game compared to only 40 percent for Williams. The Panthers also outrebounded the Ephs by 12, as they hit the boards hard with 39 rebounds and limited Williams to 27. Thanks to the efforts of Harrison and company, the Panthers outscored Williams in the paint 26-20.

Middlebury now stands at 13-3 overall this season and 4-1 in NESCAC play. They are a half game back of Amherst for second place and a game and a half back of Tufts for first in the conference standings.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Alex Huffman '19 goes up for a layup despite contact from the Williams defense. Huffman finished the game with four points, five assists and five rebounds.

The Panthers will be back in action this Saturday, Jan. 28, in Clinton, N.Y., as they will face the Continentals of Hamilton.

Long-awaited Notch in the Win Column for Men's Hockey

By Claire Messersmith
Contributing Writer

Playing at Kenyon Arena during their alumni weekend, the Middlebury men's hockey team (1-13-2) skated away with a win in the NESCAC as they beat Bowdoin 5-1 on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 21, to complete the back-to-back game weekend. Despite falling to Colby 4-3 on Friday night, Jan. 20, Middlebury bounced back.

Middlebury erased all three power play opportunities for Bowdoin and took advantage of their own, scoring during three of five power plays.

On Friday night, Colby opened up the scoring with a goal in the first period on a power play, which was later followed by three more Colby goals in the second period. Entering the third and final period down 4-0, Middlebury defenseman Brendan Dawson '20 scored his first collegiate goal seven minutes into the period. Four minutes later, Mitchell Allen '20 skated up the left wing and netted a goal to make the game 4-2.

Trevor Turnbull '20 found a wide open net after a sequence of passing from Allen and Kamil Tkaczuk '19, with five minutes left in the period. The Panthers had chances with an extra attacker, after pulling goalie Stephen Klein '18 in the final minutes. Colby held on, and the Panthers remained down by a goal as the third period ended, 4-3.

The following day, the puck dropped at 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon against Bowdoin, and Middlebury took full control. Vincent Gisonti '18 on the attitude of the team going into the game: "After losing to Colby, we walked into the locker room on Saturday wanting to win at home for our supporters, and the alumni," said Gisonti.

Gisonti scored two of the five goals against Bowdoin on Saturday, including the first goal of the game after a scoreless 20 minutes, 1:27 into the second period on a power play. 10 minutes later, Turnbull made it a two-to-nothing, tipping in a centering pass from Travis Stephens '17 on another power play. Though Bowdoin scored almost two minutes later, the Panthers answered with three more goals, all scored by Tkaczuk, Dawson, and Gisonti.

"We are all extremely happy with the result, as you can imagine," said Gisonti. "We knew it was a must-win hockey game because Bowdoin holds the eighth seed and giving them any points ruins any chance we have of making the playoffs."

Riding off of the win over Bowdoin, Middlebury prepares for its final eight games with new-found momentum.

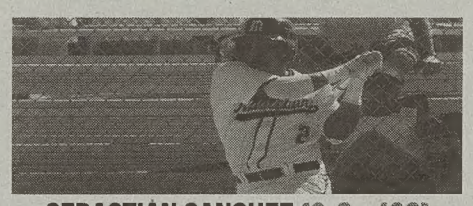
"Having tasted our first win has given us a particular drive we haven't had in awhile," said Gisonti. "All we can do is build off of the win, keep our momentum moving forward and walk into games with confidence."

Head Coach Neil Sinclair commented on the hard work, effort and resilience that finally paid off for the team on Saturday.

"Our best four games have been our last four," said Sinclair. "They tied the second-ranked team in the country, and played really well against Plattsburgh. We showed resilience against Colby — coming back and scoring three goals in the third period. They've done a really good job pushing through."

Men's hockey will be on the road this weekend, Jan. 27-28, to face Conn. College on Friday and Tufts on Saturday.

EDITORS' PICKS

	Men's indoor track & field: Will the Panthers repeat last year's result and win the Middlebury Invitational this weekend?	Women's swimming: Will the Panthers fare better at NESCACs the second weekend of Feb. than last year (fourth-place)?	Men's hockey: Of the six games they play prior to the next issue, how many do they win?	Super Bowl pick 'em: Who do you guys got, Pats or Falcons?
WILL CASE (63-39, .618)	YES I agree with Rob. They also look to be clicking on all cylinders right now.	NO Emily covers them. Rob's wearing an apron. Sebastian's grounding into a hard 6-4-3 and hasn't answered yet.	ONE They'll beat Conn. College. But last time we all picked them to win before break and jinxed them.	PATRIOTS As much as I want to say Atlanta and as hot as the Falcons are, it just seems like the Pats are going to pull it off again.
EMILY BUSTARD (75-84, .472)	YES For sure. (but wow, next week let's try to avoid everyone having the same answer)	NO Tufts and Conn. College will probably be some of Midd's closest competition at NESCACs.	ONE I think they can beat Conn. College! I'm playing it safe here, but hopefully they can win more?	PATRIOTS In third grade when I randomly picked them as my team they won the super bowl. So yeah, I'll stick with that.
 SEBASTIAN SANCHEZ (2-3, .400)	YES Duh. We got this.	NO Don't know much about swimming, but if our trusted Emily says no, I'll go with her.	ONE. Conn. College, no doubt about it.	PATRIOTS As much as I hate to say it, the Brady bunch has this one.
ROBERT ERICKSON (0-0, .000)	YES Don't see why not. They're just as strong if not stronger this season, they handled two DI teams last weekend and this is the third straight weekend they're competing at home — good sleep does wonders.	NO I don't think they do better than fourth — Williams and Amherst are almost locks to go 1-2 and I think Bates or Conn takes the third spot.	TWO Conn. College has only won one game in-conference, and I have to think the Panthers will take at least one of the other five as well.	PATRIOTS Brady has won more Super Bowls (4) than Ryan has playoff victories (3).

SPORTS

The Middlebury Campus

ICE IS NICE

Although they fell against Colby, the Men's hockey team picked up their first win of the season against Bowdoin.
See story on page 23.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

SQUASH STRUGGLES AGAINST TOUGH FOES

By Will Case
Sports Editor

The men's and women's squash teams are coming off another busy week as they played several matches from Friday, Jan. 20, to Sunday, Jan. 22. The women's team faced four opponents with all but one, St. Lawrence, ranked higher than the Panthers in the College Squash Association (CSA) rankings. Of the three opponents the men's squad faced, two were ranked higher than the Panthers.

Results-wise, it was one of the toughest weeks of the season so far. The men's squad dropped all three matches, including an emotional loss to conference foe, Williams, on senior day last Friday. The women's squad managed to salvage one victory against St. Lawrence on Saturday when they met in Canton, N.Y.

The flu-bug bit the men's team hard last weekend, as it caused the team to miss its number two, Jacob Ellen '20, for all three matches. As a result, everyone from the three-spot down was slotted up.

Despite the setback, the team came out hard on Friday against Williams and lost in close fashion — five matches to four.

Playing in his final home match, senior Andrew Cadienhead '17 rose to the occasion in the second slot to defeat the Williams number two, Will Means, in straight sets. Cadienhead had not played in the two spot since his sophomore season, but he was able to control the match from the outset.

"I was trying to pin him in the back," said Cadienhead when he talked strategy after his match. "I was kind of hitting rails or crosses and then once I had him back there it opened up a lot of other things I wanted to do. My boasts were going, my drops were working, but that all starts with getting him in the back first."

Cadienhead also talked about how Friday's match brought added significance as he wanted his last memory at home, playing for the Panthers, to be a positive one.

"My biggest thing was I definitely want to come out hungry," Cadienhead added. "I mean, [it was] the last home match of my career so I definitely wanted to end on a big note and have that memory, especially against Williams."

Ben Krant '17 also played in the last home match of his Middlebury career and lost in four hard-fought sets against the younger of the Ephs' Shuck brothers. After dropping the second set 11 to one to fall behind two sets to none, Krant battled back in the third set and beat Shuck 11 to seven, although Shuck took the decisive set by the same score.

"I think a few of the guys really came out and played pretty well today," said a disappointed Krant. "Nick Bermingham '20 got a big win and that was awesome because he's a freshman. And Andrew [winning] was great because he's a really incredible player too and we all pushed up [a slot] and battled pretty hard without our number two [Jacob Ellen '20]. I'm excited and like that we can fight that hard without our guy in the two spot and we'll have Jacob back. I really think we'll have a better shot at taking these guys down in NESCACs."

Before the completion of all of the matches, Cadienhead said after his match win that the team was inspired to win for Jacob Ellen '20 and wanted to show it could compete even without its number two.

"I think, as a team, we were all thinking we really want to do it for Jacob," said Cadienhead. "That's one of the reasons why you have so many guys on the team. When someone goes down everyone has to step up. We're a good team even without Jacob, so it's nice to come out with the win."

Moving forward, Krant said that the team will look to use the Williams loss as motivation in search of the Panthers' second-straight bid to the B bracket at team championships next month.

"I mean, obviously you want to win at home in your last match," said Krant. "I've had a great season so far but it's hard to lose here. [But] it's not over, we're not in the Cs yet. We have a chance to go to the Bs and going to battle and train hard to have a good end to the season."

On the women's side, Middlebury beating the 11th-ranked Ephs would have been a tough task. Despite the fact that the Panthers fell six to three,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

SWIMMING HOSTS WILLIAMS

By Emily Bustard
Sports Editor

Middlebury Swimming and Diving took on Williams on Saturday, Jan. 21 in their last dual meet of the 2016-17 season. Both the Panther men and women fell to their defending NESCAC champion competitors, as they fell by respective scores of 213-80 (men) and 183-111 (women).

"...[Last] weekend with Williams [was] the most competitive we've ever been with them," said Head Coach Bob Rueppel of the men's and women's performances. "I was really pleased. So we're in a really good spot right now."

To begin the meet, the women's 400 medley-relay team of Isabel Wyer '18, Celia Ripple '20, Frances VanderMeer '20 and Morgan Burke '17 touched the wall just 3.11 seconds behind the fourth-ranked Ephs with a time of 3:59.40.

Jack Dowling '19 was soon able to place second in the 200 butterfly (2:01.05) for the Panther men, while Panther women earned points in the 200 fly with swimmers touching the wall third (Grace Stimson '19 2:15.86), fourth (Jessica Lipton '20 2:15.87) and fifth (Caitlin Carroll '17 2:16.49).

Claire Treesh '17 was the Middlebury swimmer with the highest finish in a backstroke event, earning second in the 200 back with a time of 2:17.20. For the men, Brendan Leech '19 and Noel Antonisse '17 notched points for their team by finishing third (25.36) and fifth (26.11), respectively.

Co-captain Nora O'Leary '17, who won the 200 breaststroke (2:27.29), touched the wall just 0.64 seconds before Ripple, who earned second in the event with her time of 2:27.93. Stefan Pla '18 swam the 200 breast in 2:14.72 in order to place second for the men.

Meanwhile, the Panthers swept second through fourth place in the women's 50 breaststroke as Ripple placed second (30.43), Maya Gomez '20 placed third (30.84) and Liza MacCowatt '19 50 placed fourth (32.14).

VanderMeer finished first in the women's 50 freestyle (25.05), while David Keyes '17 earned second for the men's team in the same event with a time of 22.53.

Burke, a women's co-captain, then earned second in both the 100 free (54.51) and the 200 free (1:59.61). Burke touched the wall just behind Wyer, who won the heat (1:57.76). Connor McCormick '18 placed second in the men's 200 free (1:46.49).

Michael McGean '17, a co-captain for the Panther men, earned a victory in the 500 free (4:49.91), and came up just 0.2 seconds short of first in the 1000 free (9:45.16, second).

Both Middlebury teams were runners up in the 200 free relay races, with the men's team of Leech, Will Pannos '20, McCormick and Antonisse clocking a 1:28.83, and the women's team of Gomez, Burke, VanderMeer and Stephanie Andrews

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

INSIDE SPORTS

NORDIC AND ALPINE SKI TEAMS KICK OFF SEASON AT SAINT LAWRENCE CARNIVAL
PAGE 22

MEN'S BASKETBALL SUFFERS A TOUGH LOSS TO WILLIAMS
PAGE 21